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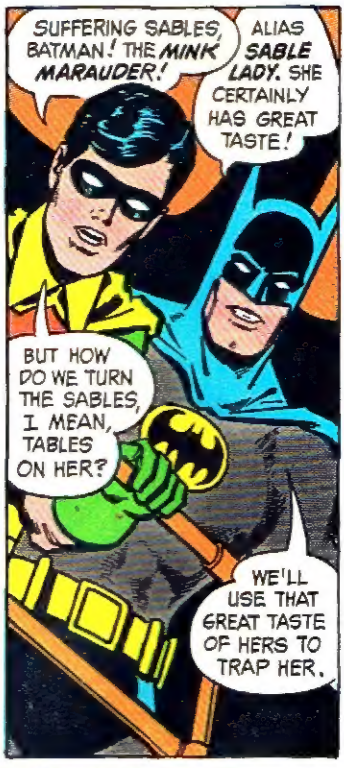

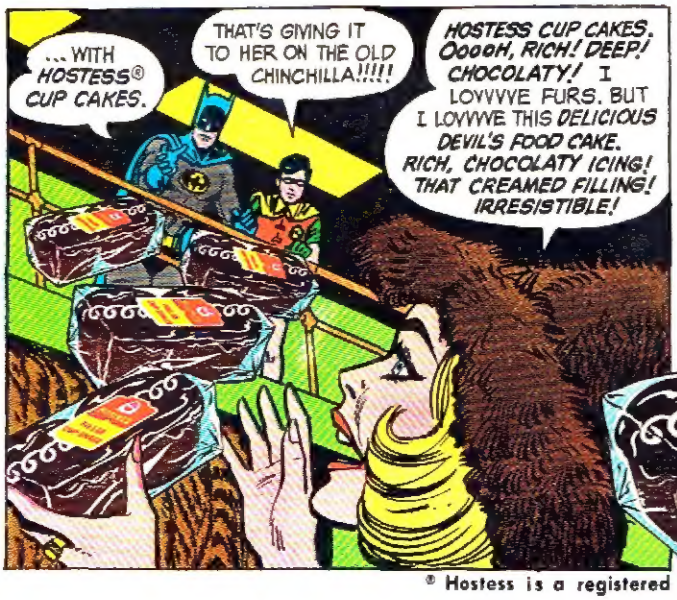

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SHADE THE CHANGING man in THE CAPTIVE OF CHANGING CAPTORS!

CONCEPT AND ART: STEVE DITKO
DIALOGUE: MICHAEL FLEISHER
COLOR: CARL GAFFORD
LETTERS: BILL MORSE
EDITING: JACK C. HARRIS

AFTER THWARTING AN ATTEMPT BY *SLIDE'S* HENCHMEN TO LIBERATE THEIR FELLOW CRIMESTERS BEING HELD IN THE HOSPITAL, *RAC SHADE*--THE INCREDIBLE *CHANGING MAN*--IS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY *MELLU* AND AWAKENS TO FIND HIMSELF CLAMPED INSIDE A *TRANQUILIZER HOOD* AND HELD FAST BY SECURITY GUARDS. THE GUARDS ARE ON THE VERGE OF STRIPPING OFF HIS *M-VEST*, WHEN SUDDENLY...

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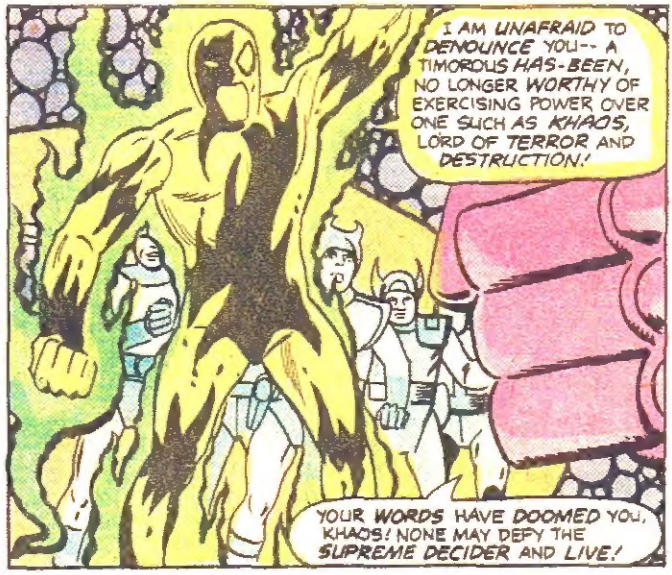
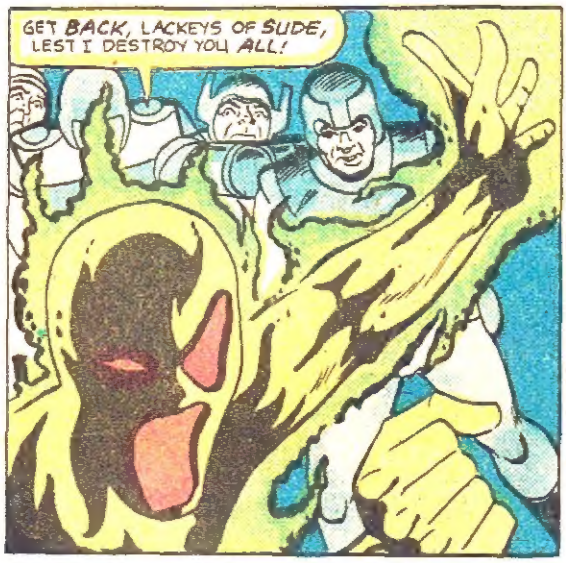
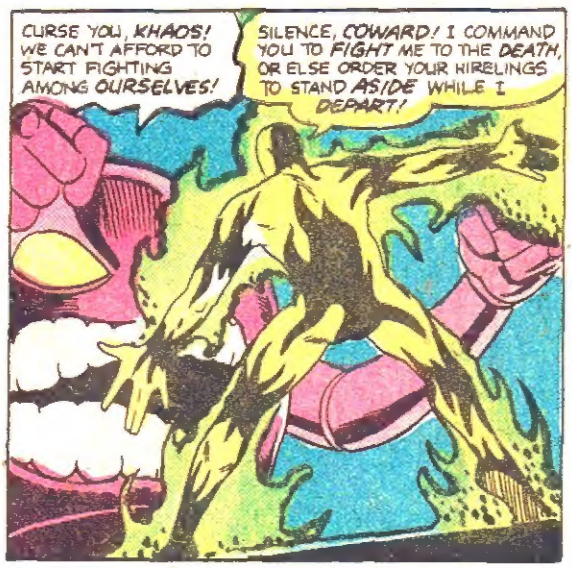
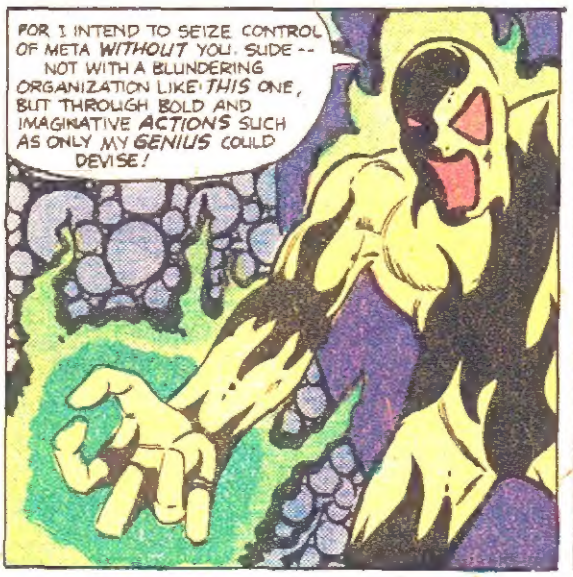
LOCK HIM IN A NEUTRALIZING CELL! WE MUST WAIT UNTIL THE TRIBUNAL REVIEWS THE NEW CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND HANDS DOWN A NEW DECISION!
WAIT! WE NEEDN'T REMOVE THE M-VEST IN ORDER TO EXECUTE SHADE'S DEATH SENTENCE!
WE CAN ASPHYXIATE HIM WITH GAS AND CREMATE HIM ALONG WITH THE VEST!
WE'LL LET THE TRIBUNAL DECIDE THAT! FOR NOW, I WANT THAT PRISONER SECURED! HIS M-VEST MIGHT ALREADY BE WORKING TO COUNTERACT THE TRANQUILIZING HOOD!
SHADE RISKED HIS LIFE FOR ME! I-I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND LET HIM DIE!
WAIT! COL. KROSS! PLEASE! THERE ARE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SHADE'S BEHAVIOR SINCE HE GOT OUT OF PRISON! HE--
K-KEEP...OUT OF...THIS, DR. SAGAN...! TH-THIS IS...LEGAL MATTER...NOT MEDICAL ONE...!
GOOD GRIEF! DOES HE MEAN TO KEEP SILENT ABOUT HOW HE SAVED MELLU--EVEN IF IT COSTS HIM HIS LIFE?
YOU'LL RECEIVE META'S HIGHEST HONORS FOR THIS, MELLU!
ALL I WANT IS SHADE'S DEATH!
HOW--HOW CAN I HELP HIM?
MAYBE SHADE'S RIGHT TO KEEP SILENT! SAVING MELLU FROM A SHRIEKING DEATH WOULDN'T ALTER HIS DEATH SENTENCE!
IF I DIE, MELLU WILL BE BETTER OFF BELIEVING THE WORST ABOUT ME! BUT BY META, I'M NOT DEAD YET!

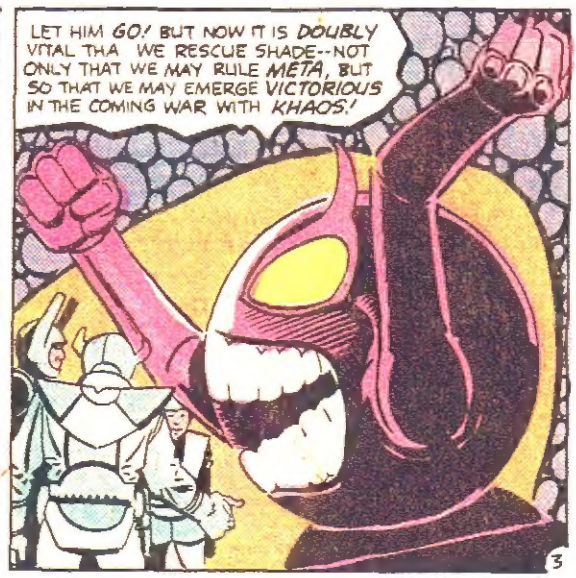
ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY, OTHERS PONDER SHADE'S FATE...
SHADE DOES NOT BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THE MIRACO VEST'S ENORMOUS POWER! WE MUST RESCUE HIM SO I MAY POSSESS IT!
NO, SUDE! I NO LONGER LISTEN TO YOU OR FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS!

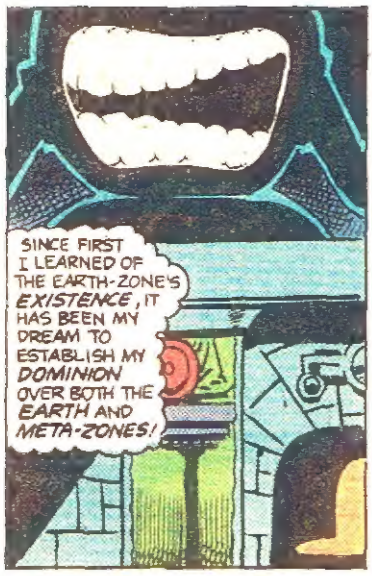

I AM UNAFRAID TO DENOUNCE YOU-- A TIMOROUS HAS-BEEN, NO LONGER WORTHY OF EXERCISING POWER OVER ONE SUCH AS KHAOS, LORD OF TERROR AND DESTRUCTION!
YOUR WORDS HAVE DOOMED YOU, KHAOS! NONE MAY DEFY THE SUPREME DECIDER AND LIVE!

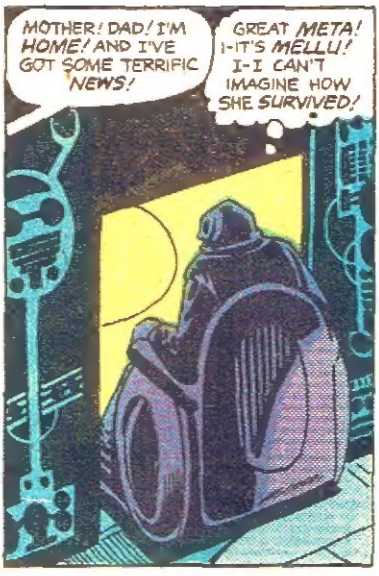

GET BACK, LACKEYS OF SUDE, LEST I DESTROY YOU ALL!

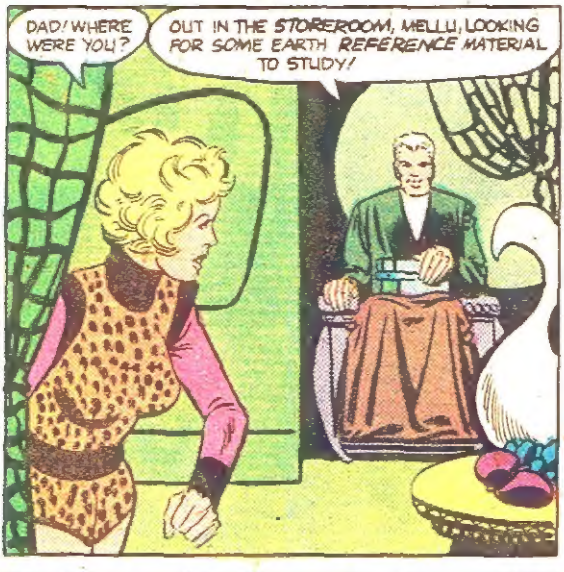

CURSE YOU, KHAOS! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO START FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES!
SILENCE, COWARD! I COMMAND YOU TO FIGHT ME TO THE DEATH, OR ELSE ORDER YOUR HIRELINGS TO STAND ASIDE WHILE I DEPART!

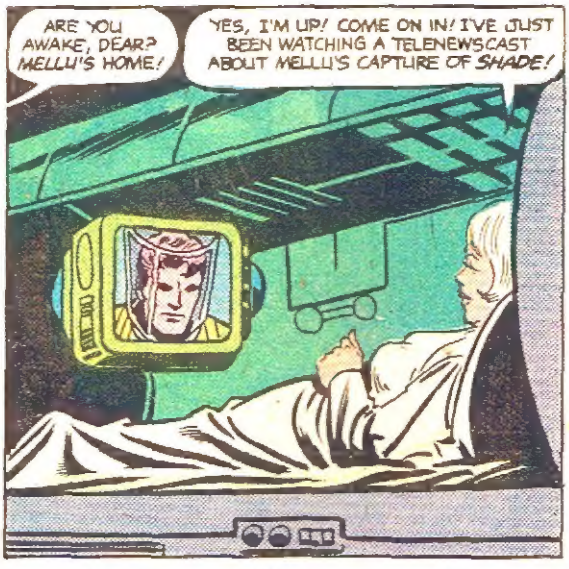

FOR I INTEND TO SEIZE CONTROL OF META WITHOUT YOU, SUDE -- NOT WITH A BLUNDERING ORGANIZATION LIKE THIS ONE, BUT THROUGH BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE ACTIONS SUCH AS ONLY MY GENIUS COULD DEVISE!

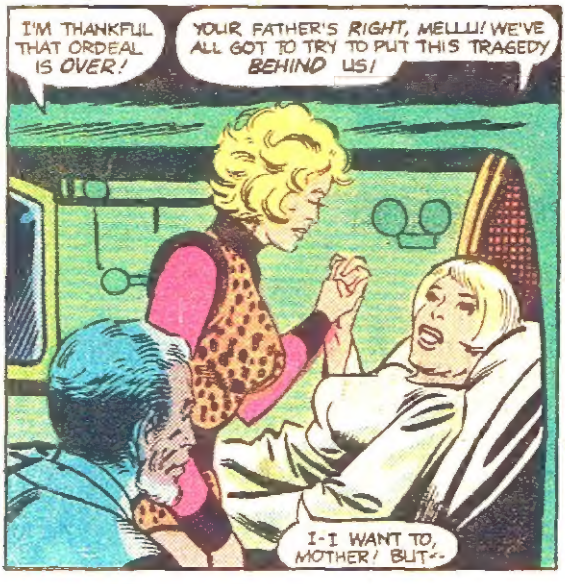

LET HIM GO! BUT NOW IT IS DOUBLY VITAL THA WE RESCUE SHADE--NOT ONLY THAT WE MAY RULE META, BUT SO THAT WE MAY EMERGE VICTORIOUS IN THE COMING WAR WITH KHAOS!











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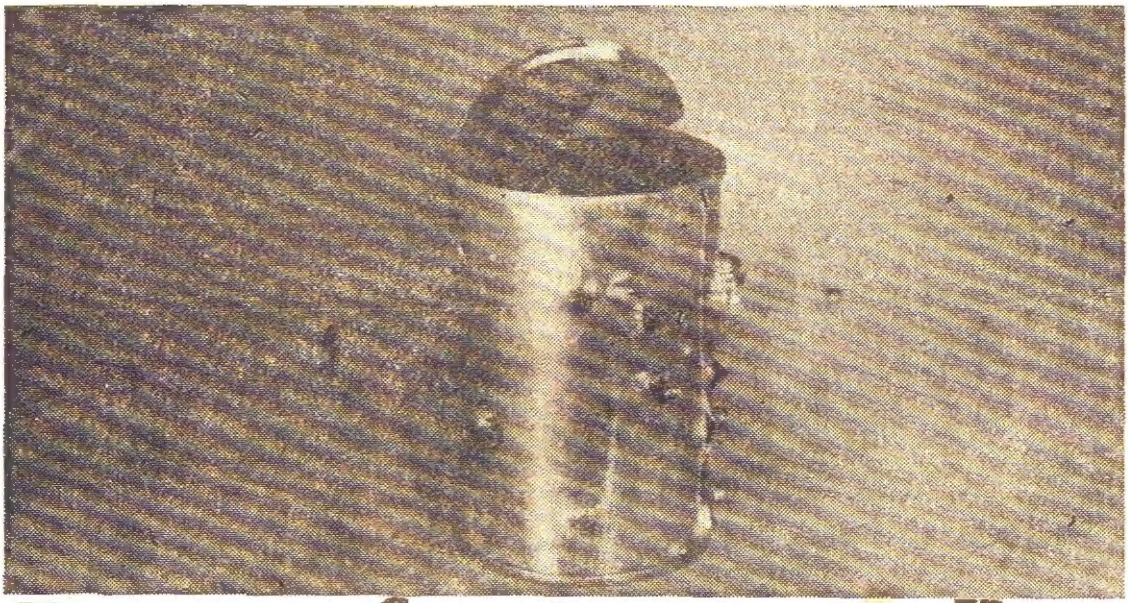

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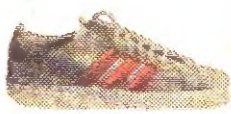

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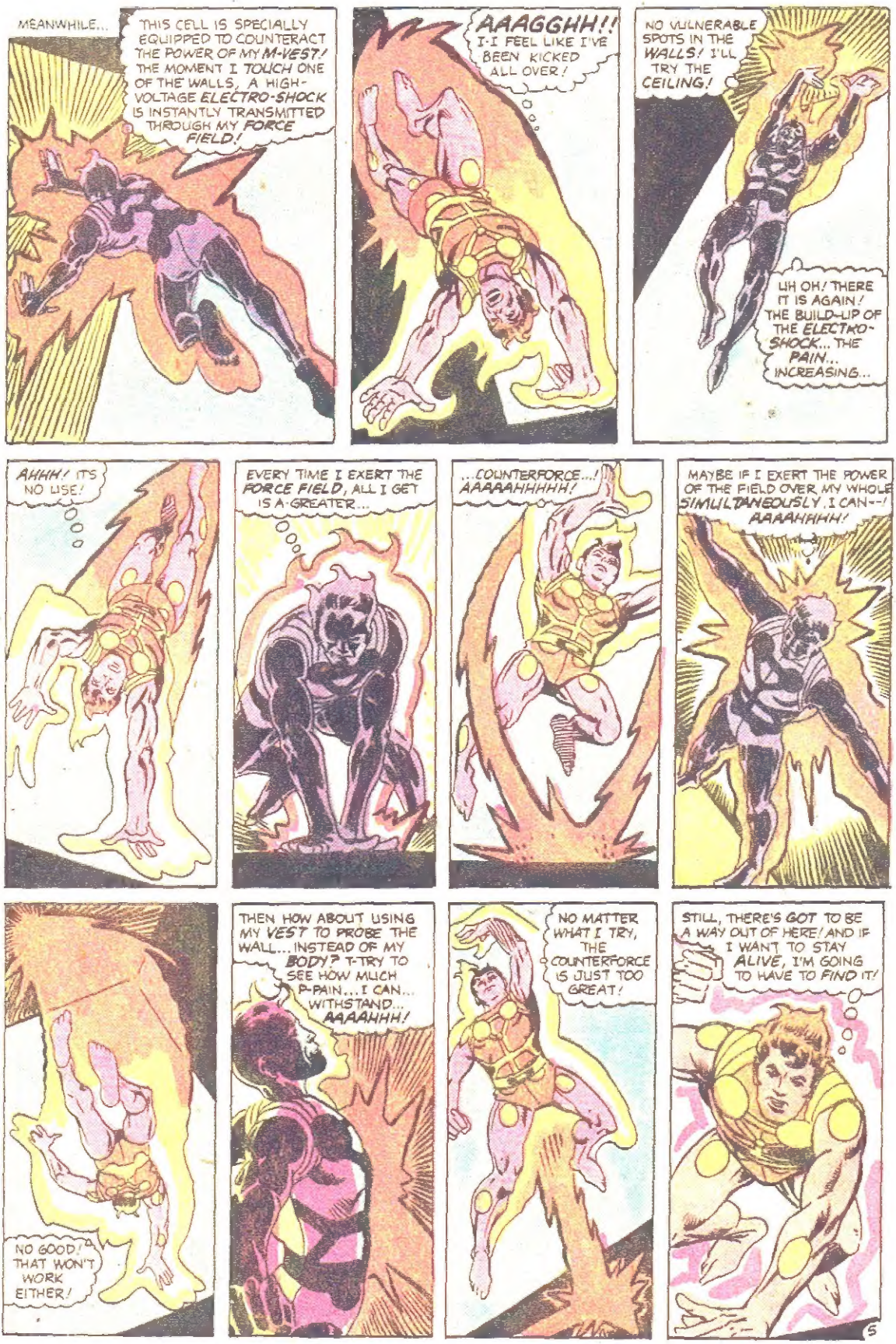

MEANWHILE...
THIS CELL IS SPECIALLY EQUIPPED TO COUNTERACT THE POWER OF MY M-VEST! THE MOMENT I TOUCH ONE OF THE WALLS, A HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTRO-SHOCK IS INSTANTLY TRANSMITTED THROUGH MY FORCE FIELD!
AAAGGHH!! I-I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN KICKED ALL OVER!
NO VULNERABLE SPOTS IN THE WALLS! I'LL TRY THE CEILING!
UH OH! THERE IT IS AGAIN! THE BUILD-UP OF THE ELECTRO-SHOCK... THE PAIN... INCREASING...
AHHH! ITS NO USE!
EVERY TIME I EXERT THE FORCE FIELD, ALL I GET IS A-GREATER...
...COUNTERFORCE...! AAAAAHHHHH!
MAYBE IF I EXERT THE POWER OF THE FIELD OVER MY WHOLE SIMULTANEOUSLY, I CAN--! AAAAHHHH!
NO GOOD! THAT WON'T WORK EITHER!
THEN HOW ABOUT USING MY VEST TO PROBE THE WALL... INSTEAD OF MY BODY? T-TRY TO SEE HOW MUCH P-PAIN... I CAN... WITHSTAND... AAAAHHH!
NO MATTER WHAT I TRY, THE COUNTERFORCE IS JUST TOO GREAT!
STILL, THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT OF HERE! AND IF I WANT TO STAY ALIVE, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIND IT!

PONDERING HER FUTURE, MELLU TAKES A LONG WALK...

SOON SHADE WILL BE OUT OF MY LIFE FOR GOOD! I-I SHOULD BE HAPPY, YET SOMEHOW--

WHA--!? WH-WHY, YOU'RE SGT. BARAK! WHAT IS IT, SERGEANT?

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU--ABOUT RESCUING RAC SHADE!

RESCUING--!? A-ARE YOU MAD, SERGEANT? DO YOU REALIZE I COULD HAVE YOU COURT-MARTIALED FOR EVEN--

TURN ME IN IF YOU WANT TO! BUT FIRST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

WHEN MY PATROL WAS ATTACKED BY FLESH-EATERS IN THE ZERO-ZONE,* IT WAS RAC SHADE WHO SAVED MY LIFE!

HE PROBABLY THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL DEAD AND JUST WANTED YOUR EQUIPMENT! SHADE WOULDN'T RISK HIS LIFE FOR ANYONE!

* SHADE #3-- JCH!

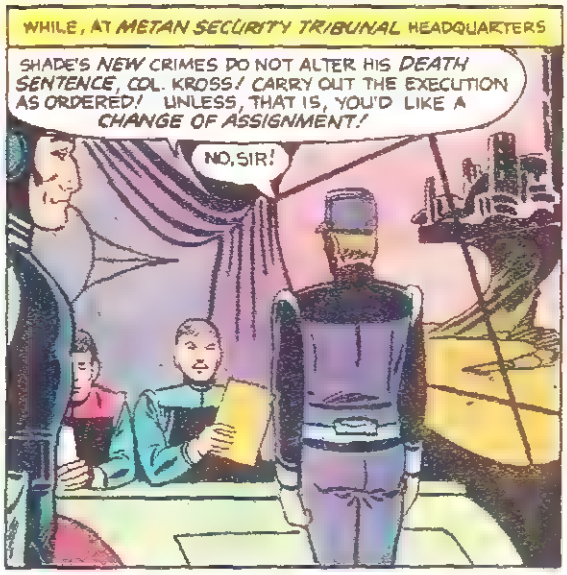
THEN WHY DID SHADE RESCUE YOU FROM THE AREA OF MADNESS? WHY DID HE RISK HIS LIFE, NOT TO MENTION HIS SANITY, TO SAVE YOU FROM A SHRIEKING, AGONIZING DEATH?

WHAT!?

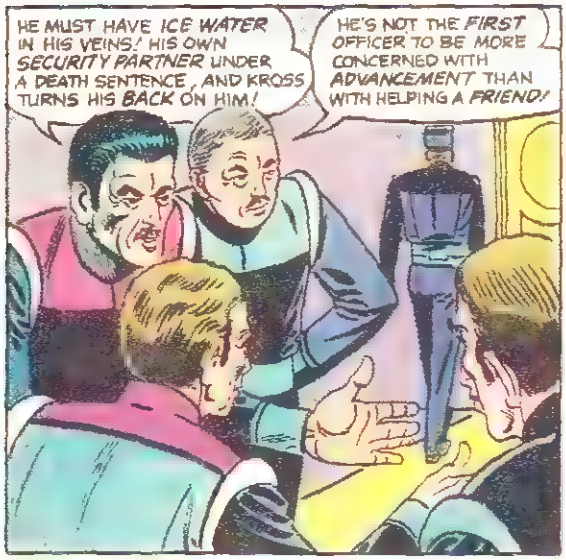
I SAW HIM CARRY YOU INTO THE HOSPITAL, AND THEN WATCHED WHAT HE WENT THROUGH TO ERASE YOUR MEMORY OF THAT TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE! THAT'S WHY HE MADE DR. SAGAN KEEP QUIET! HE--

YOU'RE LYING!

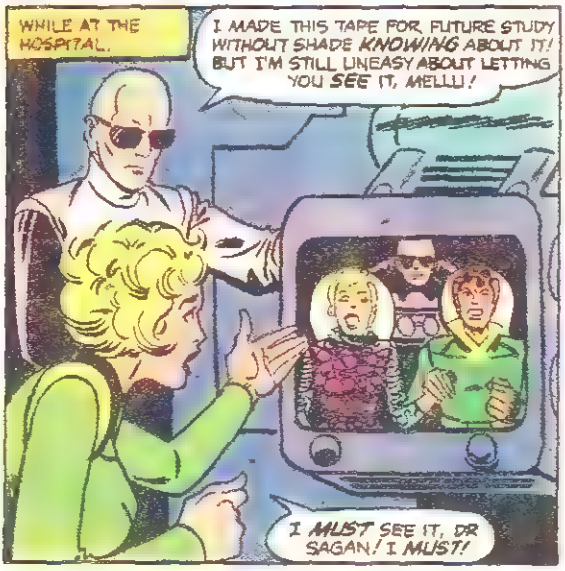
BUT WAIT! I-I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THE TIME I WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS AT GOLA ZAE'S UNTIL I AWOKE IN THE HOSPITAL! I'VE GOT TO LEARN THE TRUTH!


WHILE, AT METAN SECURITY TRIBUNAL HEADQUARTERS
SHADE'S NEW CRIMES DO NOT ALTER HIS DEATH SENTENCE, COL. KROSS! CARRY OUT THE EXECUTION AS ORDERED! UNLESS, THAT IS, YOU'D LIKE A CHANGE OF ASSIGNMENT!
NO, SIR!

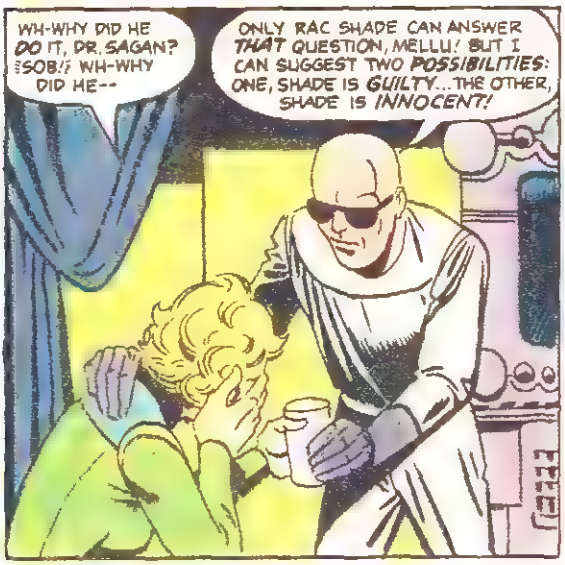
COL KROSS, YOU TRAINED SHADE YOURSELF! YOU PERFORMED BRILLIANTLY TOGETHER IN NUMEROUS CASES! YET YOU HAVEN'T UTTERED A SINGLE WORD IN SHADE'S DEFENSE! WHY?
SHADE WAS PROVEN GUILTY, SIR! IF I HAD NEW EVIDENCE, I WOULD PRESENT IT! WILL THAT BE ALL, SIR?

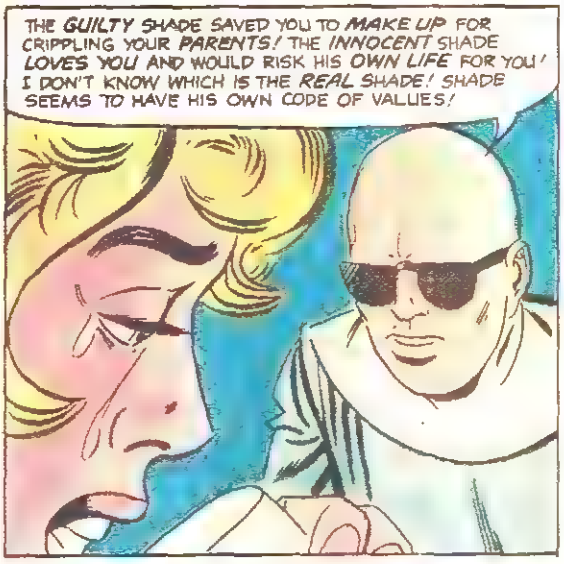

HE MUST HAVE ICE WATER IN HIS VEINS! HIS OWN SECURITY PARTNER UNDER A DEATH SENTENCE, AND KROSS TURNS HIS BACK ON HIM!
HE'S NOT THE FIRST OFFICER TO BE MORE CONCERNED WITH ADVANCEMENT THAN WITH HELPING A FRIEND!

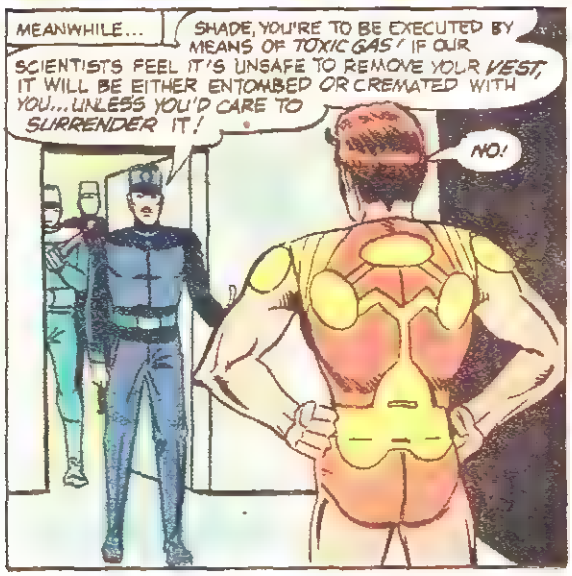
I'M ALL FOR DEATH SENTENCES! I BELIEVE THOSE GUILTY OF TREASON SHOULD PAY WITH THEIR LIVES! BUT... BUT ARE YOU REALLY GUILTY, SHADE?


WHILE AT THE HOSPITAL.
I MADE THIS TAPE FOR FUTURE STUDY WITHOUT SHADE KNOWING ABOUT IT! BUT I'M STILL UNEASY ABOUT LETTING YOU SEE IT, MELLU!
I MUST SEE IT, DR SAGAN! I MUST!

OH NO! OH MY DEAR META... SHADE WENT THROUGH ALL THIS...?







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SUPER SEA-MONKEYS®

JUST ADD WATER—CREATE LIVE "INSTANT PETS!"™

THE MOST AMAZING SIGHT YOU HAVE EVER SEEN!

Imagine: **Just add water,** and amazing new **Super Sea-Monkeys®** (Artemia salina) **hatch alive** right **before your eyes!** And that's just the **start** of a **multitude of miracles** that you will see when you own the most **adorable** *live pets ever to bring smiles, laughter and joy into the American home*

THREE-EYED "FREAKS OF NATURE"!

From the very start, new **Super Sea-Monkeys®** thrill you with **wonders** that leave you **breathless!** *Born with but* **one eye** *in the center of their heads, in a few days they grow* **two more** *eyes* making them **three** eyed **"freaks of nature"!** When they grow, they shed their middle eye and become "normal" two-eyed sea-creatures. And because new **Super Sea-Monkeys®** grow **so incredibly fast** you actually **see** them getting bigger and **BIGGER,** day after fun-filled day! Just 21 days after they are born, they are **at least** ½" long, yet they can live **a whole year** or **more!**

SO "EAGER TO PLEASE" THEY "OBEY" YOUR COMMANDS LIKE A SCHOOL OF TINY DOLPHINS!

With boundless energy, **Super Sea-Monkeys®** romp and play night and day. So full of fun, you'll **never** tire watching them swim, race and take turns riding each others backs like cowboys on their ponies. We even show you how to make them appear to **obey your commands:** At a snap of your fingers they follow a candle beam as if hypnotized, loop-the loop like circus daredevils and even "dance" to a lively tune! Because **Super Sea-Monkeys®** eat so little, keep their water so clean, and need just a minimum of care, even an 8-year old child can grow them. If you like the company of pets you'll **love** owning **Super Sea Monkeys®**

INCREDIBLE MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

Since **every word** you have just read about new **Super Sea-Monkeys®** is **absolutely true,** we ship them to you with the most **INCREDIBLE UNCONDITIONAL MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE IN HISTORY!** You **MUST** be **completely satisfied** or you can **KEEP EVERYTHING FREE** including the **Super Sea-Monkeys®,** and upon your request we will **IMMEDIATELY REFUND YOUR MONEY IN FULL** *right down to* the **LAST PENNY!**

ONLY **$1.25** PLUS POSTAGE

UNICORN HOUSE, Dept. 41-P
258 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10016

Please send _____ Super Sea-Monkey Kit(s) and my **FREE extra supplies!** I enclose $1.25 for each kit plus 50¢ postage and handling. If not satisfied, you **GUARANTEE TO REFUND MY MONEY!**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $_____ (no C.O.D.'s please)

Name _____ Apt. No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ **SPECIAL RUSH ORDER (50¢ extra)**
Foreign Orders $4.00 (except Canada)

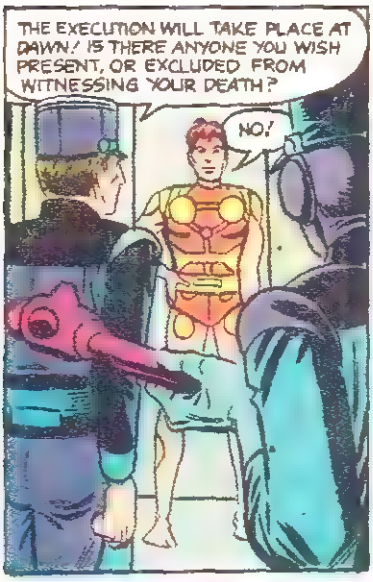
"THEY GROW ½" TO ¾" LONG

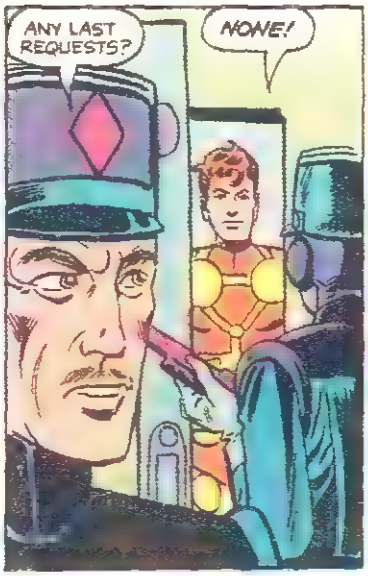
HERE'S PROOF THEY'RE REAL!
*LIFE DRAWINGS MADE FROM ACTUAL PHOTOS.

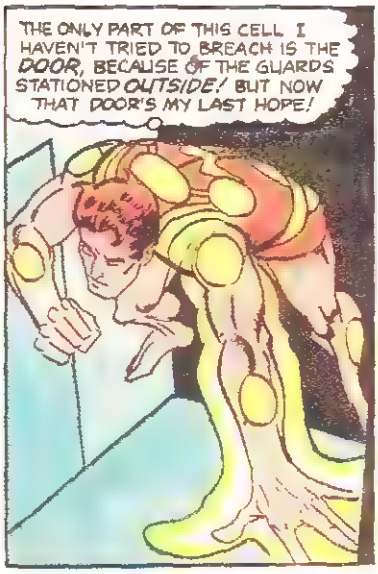
FREE!
OVER $2.00 WORTH OF SUPPLIES!

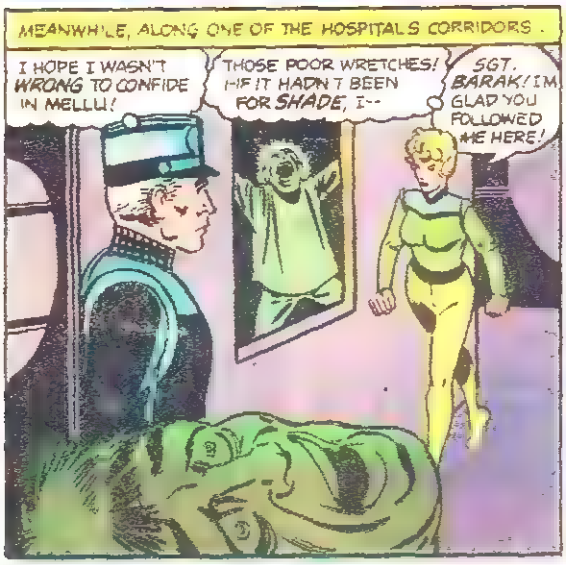
- brand-new FULLY-ILLUSTRATED SEA-MONKEY BOOK
- a generous supply of SUPER GROWTH FOOD
- twin-level precision FEEDING INSTRUMENT

Artemia salina

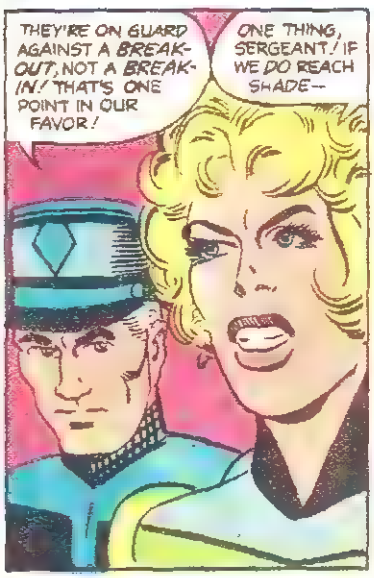

THE EXECUTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT DAWN! IS THERE ANYONE YOU WISH PRESENT, OR EXCLUDED FROM WITNESSING YOUR DEATH?
NO!

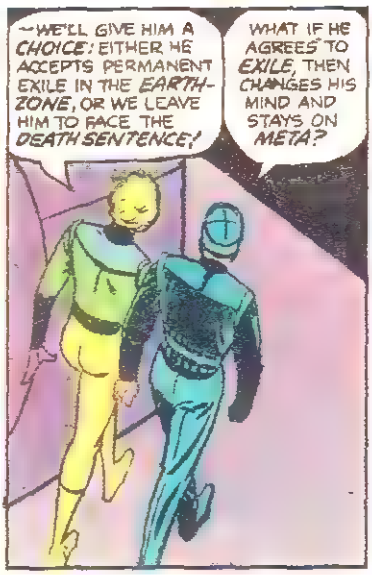

ANY LAST REQUESTS?
NONE!

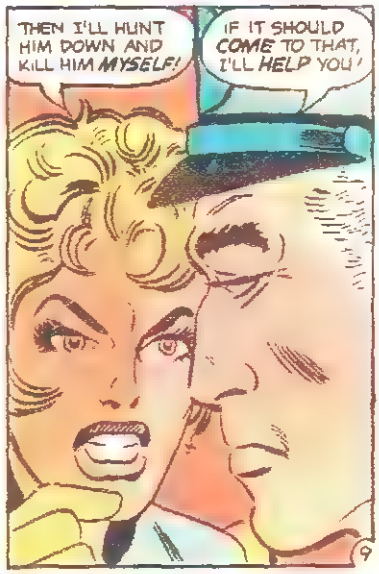

THE ONLY PART OF THIS CELL I HAVEN'T TRIED TO BREACH IS THE DOOR, BECAUSE OF THE GUARDS STATIONED OUTSIDE! BUT NOW THAT DOOR'S MY LAST HOPE!

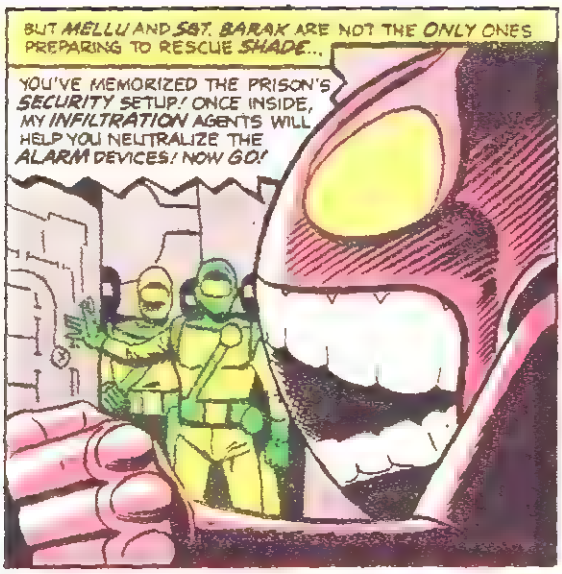

MEANWHILE, ALONG ONE OF THE HOSPITAL'S CORRIDORS.
I HOPE I WASN'T WRONG TO CONFIDE IN MELLU!
THOSE POOR WRETCHES! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR SHADE, I--
SGT. BARAK! I'M GLAD YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE!

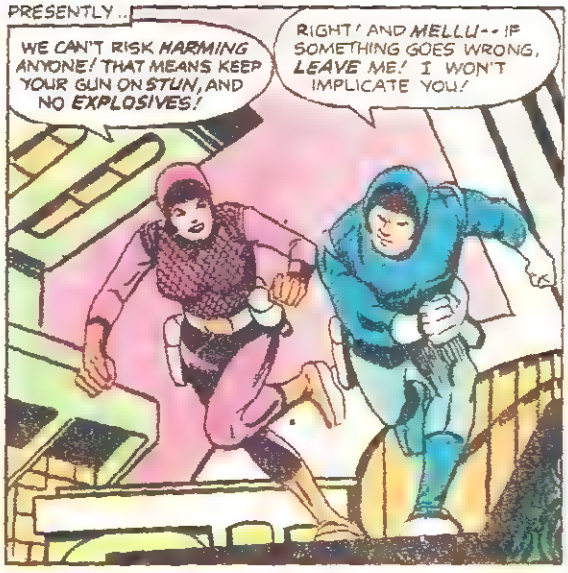
WE BOTH OWE SHADE OUR LIVES, SGT. BARAK! YOU'RE AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR TRYING TO PAY HIM BACK?
I ONCE SERVED A HITCH AT THE PRISON! I KNOW THE SECURITY SETUP AND THE LAYOUT OF THE DETENTION AREA!

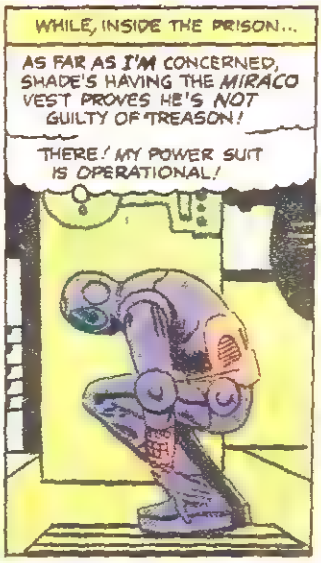

THEY'RE ON GUARD AGAINST A BREAK-OUT, NOT A BREAK-IN! THAT'S ONE POINT IN OUR FAVOR!
ONE THING, SERGEANT! IF WE DO REACH SHADE--

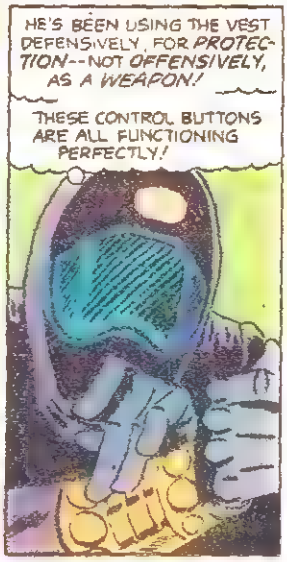

--WE'LL GIVE HIM A CHOICE: EITHER HE ACCEPTS PERMANENT EXILE IN THE EARTH-ZONE, OR WE LEAVE HIM TO FACE THE DEATH SENTENCE!
WHAT IF HE AGREES TO EXILE, THEN CHANGES HIS MIND AND STAYS ON META?

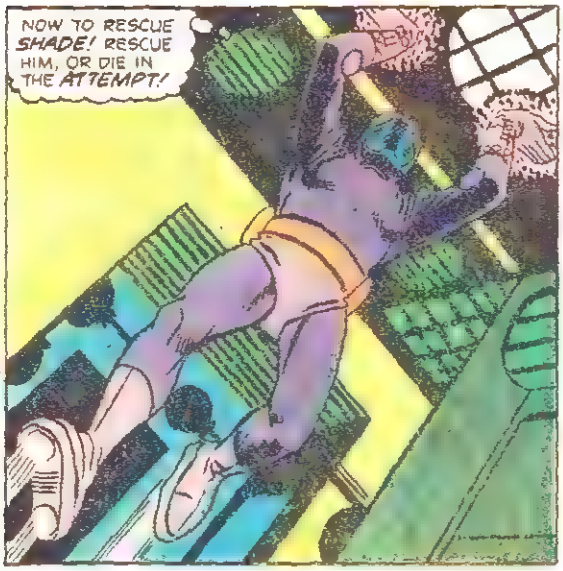

THEN I'LL HUNT HIM DOWN AND KILL HIM MYSELF!
IF IT SHOULD COME TO THAT, I'LL HELP YOU!

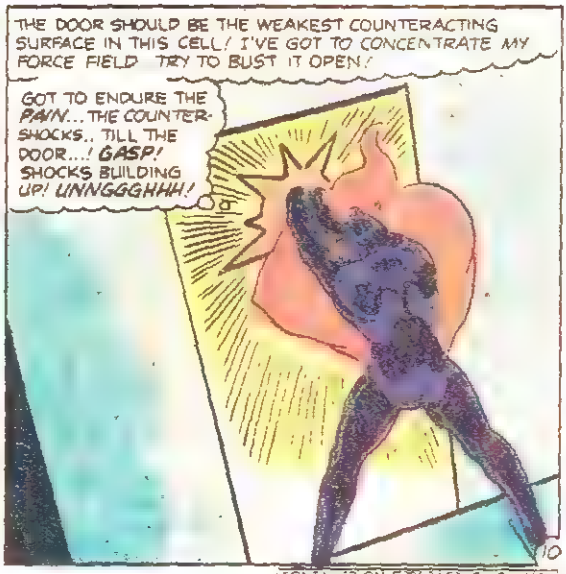












CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Satisfy your meat tooth.

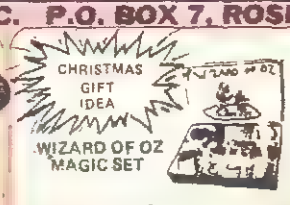
For those times when you get a craving for something to really sink your teeth into, sink them into Slim Jim® meat snacks. The chewy all-meat sticks that come in mild, spicy, pizza, bacon, pepperoni and salami. Just about every possible flavor you could ever want. Except, of course, garlic.

A little less than a meal. A little more than a snack.®

J.A.R. DISCOUNTS, INC. P.O. BOX 7, ROSEDALE NY 11422

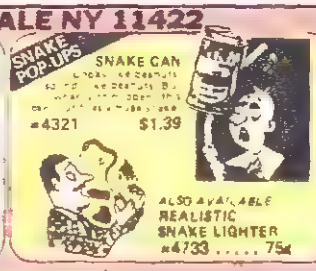
DISCOUNT MAGIC and JOKES

HAND BUZZER
This novelty shocks the victim in the palm of your hand. Guaranteed to give a mild electrical shock. Just shake hands and watch the action that follows!
#4338 ..... 69¢



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

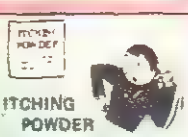
WIZARD OF OZ MAGIC SET
Our own magic set. Set includes ten great magic tricks, all with instructions.
#5026 ..... $3.25



SNAKE CAN
#4321 $1.39

ALSO AVAILABLE
REALISTIC SNAKE LIGHTER
#4733 ..... 75¢

SHOCK BOOK
Appears to be a regular book. But when you's stem comes in contact for the shock of his life. Harmless. Battery not included.
#4371 ..... $4.95



ITCHING POWDER
Another favorite for practical jokers. Sprinkle a little on and watch the harmless itching occur.
#4236 ..4 packages $1.00

MINI SPY CAMERA
This [illegible] and takes [illegible] photos [illegible] also ever made.
#6832 ..... $1.50
#6833 ... Film 3 for 90¢

BLACK SOAP
This bar of soap looks real, but just place in soap dish and watch the fun begin!
#5017 (75¢ (2 for $1.39)

DISAPPEARING INK
Just squirt this phony ink [illegible] watch the fun begin! When it dries it's invisible! Giant size bottle.
#4615 75¢ (2 for $1.39)

SWITCH BLADE ACTION COMB
When closed it looks like a switch blade but, at the flick your wrist and instead of a knife, out flies a comb. Really scary.
#4133 ..... $1.39

MAGIC COLOR VISION
This magical cube lets your read people's minds. Easy make.
#5319 ..... 99¢

WHOOPEE CUSHION
When the victim sits down on this cushion, a loud embarrassing sound is heard. Everybody's favorite joke!
#4483 ..... 69¢

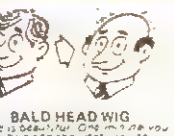
X RAY SPECS
One of the most popular items ever. These eyeglasses seem to give you X-ray vision.
#4046 ..... 90¢

More Great Gags & Tricks

Salt Water Taffy
#4291 69¢
Red Hot Pepper Gum
#4311 ..... 49¢ a pack
Marked Cards
#5843 $1.29
Mystic Smoke Finger Tips
#5802 ... 59¢ ea 2 $1.10

BANG FLAG GUN
Looks like real gun. But when you pull the trigger, out popsa flag instead. Scares anyone!
#4677 ..... $1.39

NICKELS-TO-DIMES
This [illegible] dime before your eyes! A great novelty!
#5324 ..... $1.99



BALD HEAD WIG
Bald is beautiful. One minute you have hair and the next you're bald! Friends and relatives will get a great kick out of this one.
#4681 ..... $1.29

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P.O. Box 7 Rosedale, N.Y. 11422

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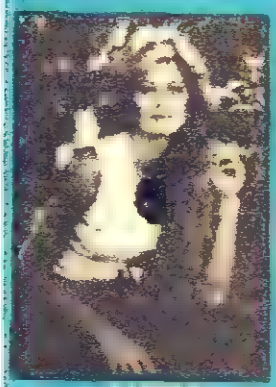
All 5 Posters for only $2.00



Group A
(Show A)

Group B:

Choose either or both Group A as shown or Group B as listed

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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_____ sets of Group B Posters @ $2.00 set $ _____

Postage & Handling $ .75

Total Enclosed $ _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Canadian Offers: Send $3.00

35

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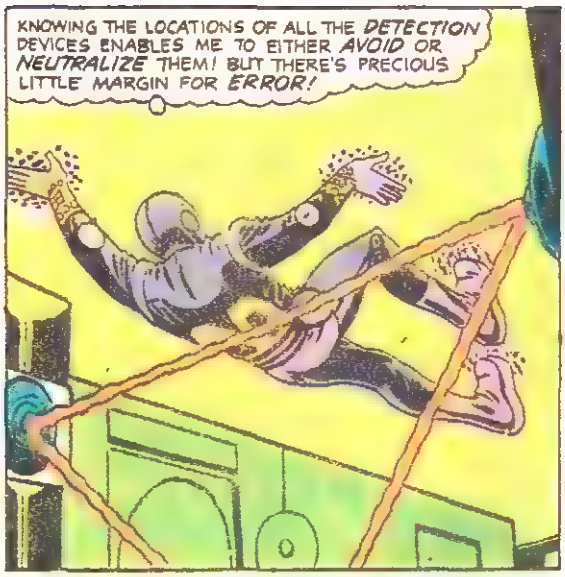
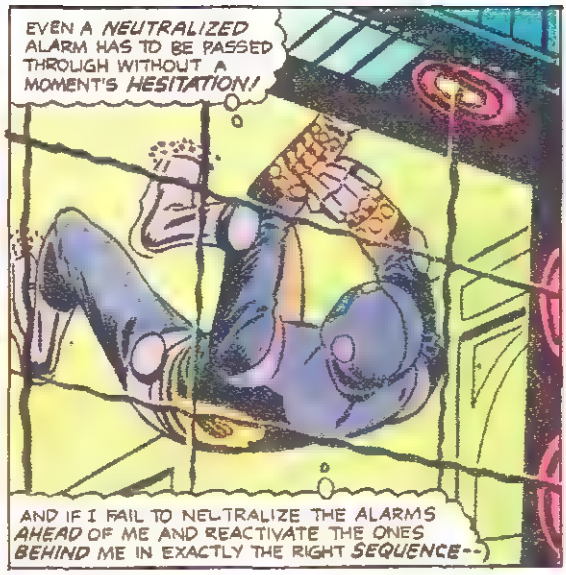
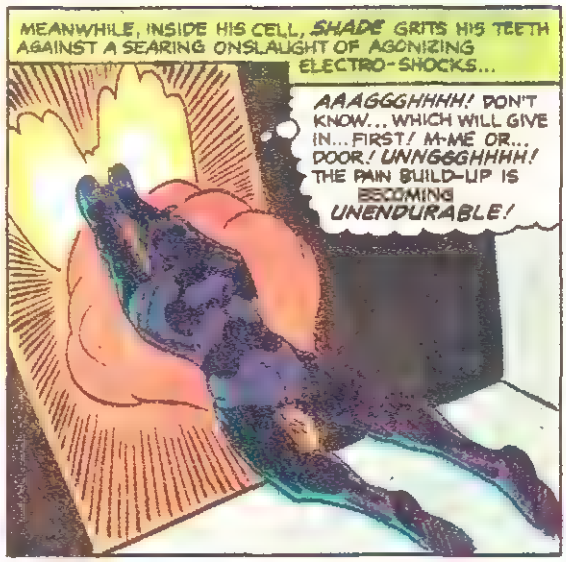
MAKE WAY FOR
THE EXPLOSIVE FIRST ISSUE OF
FIRESTORM
BY
GERRY CONWAY
AND
AL MILGROM
ON SALE
DEC. 6TH

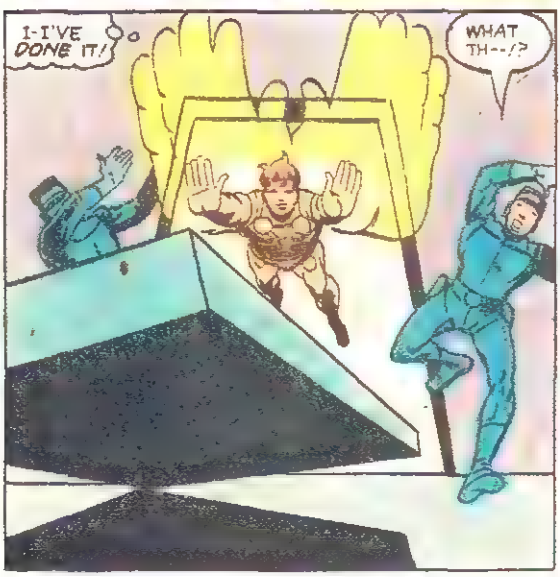

KNOWING THE LOCATIONS OF ALL THE DETECTION DEVICES ENABLES ME TO EITHER AVOID OR NEUTRALIZE THEM! BUT THERE'S PRECIOUS LITTLE MARGIN FOR ERROR!

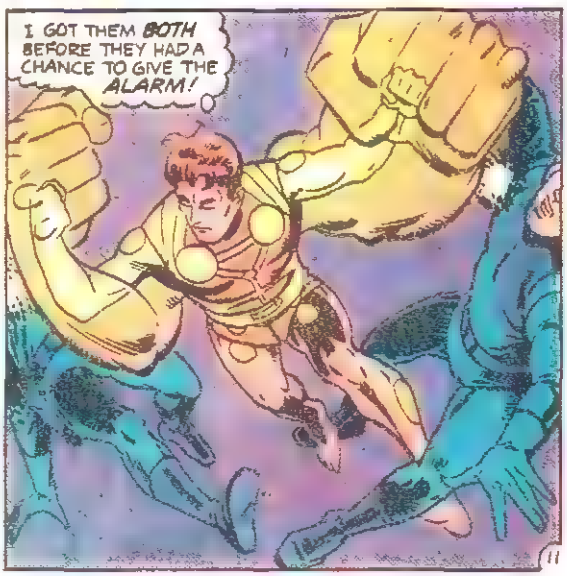

EVEN A NEUTRALIZED ALARM HAS TO BE PASSED THROUGH WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION!
AND IF I FAIL TO NEUTRALIZE THE ALARMS AHEAD OF ME AND REACTIVATE THE ONES BEHIND ME IN EXACTLY THE RIGHT SEQUENCE--)

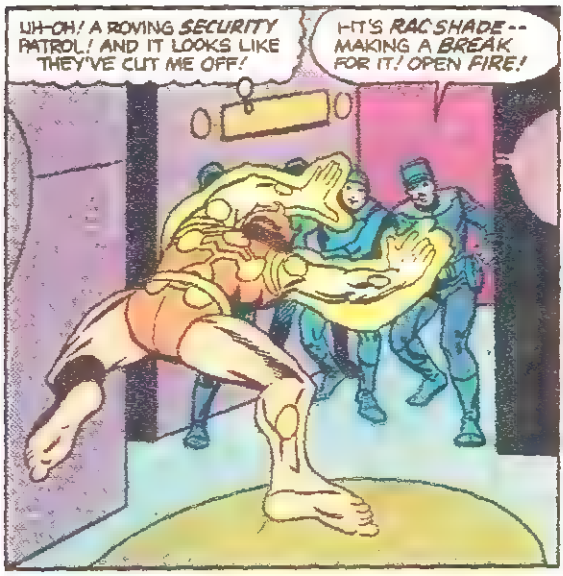
--BOOM!

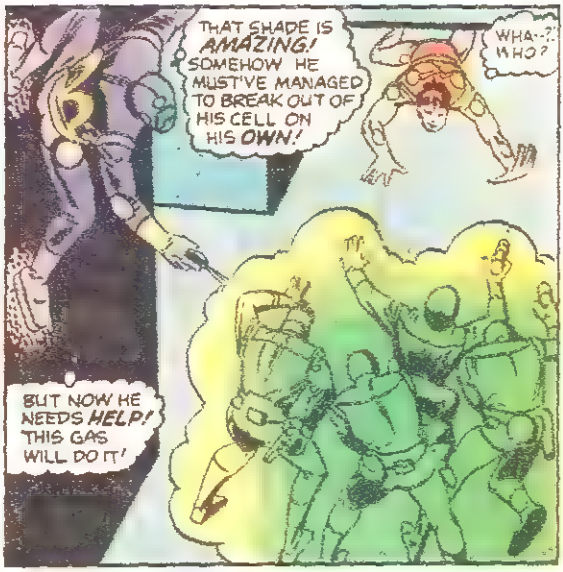
THAT'S THE END OF RAC SHADE AND ME!

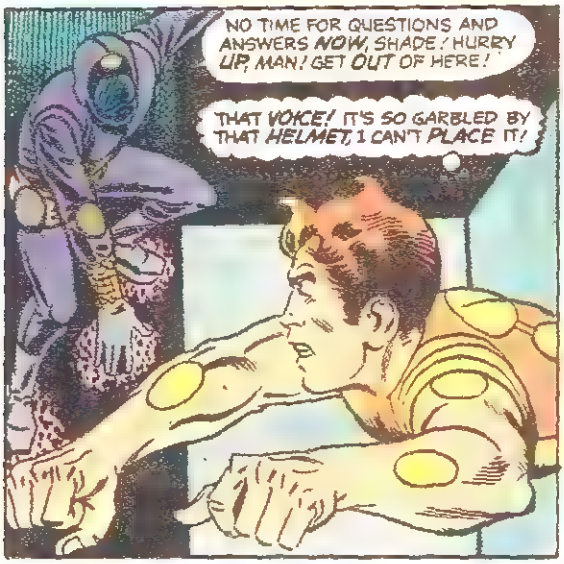

MEANWHILE, INSIDE HIS CELL, SHADE GRITS HIS TEETH AGAINST A SEARING ONSLAUGHT OF AGONIZING ELECTRO-SHOCKS...
AAAGGGHHHH! DON'T KNOW... WHICH WILL GIVE IN... FIRST! M-ME OR... DOOR! UNNGGGHHHH! THE PAIN BUILD-UP IS BECOMING UNENDURABLE!

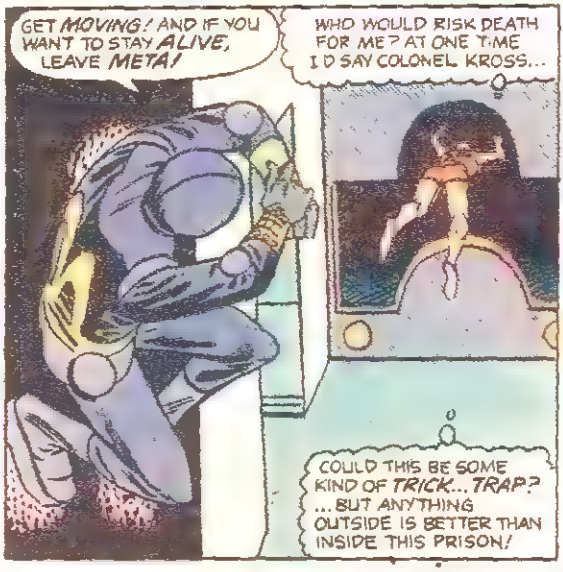

I-I'VE DONE IT!
WHAT TH--!?

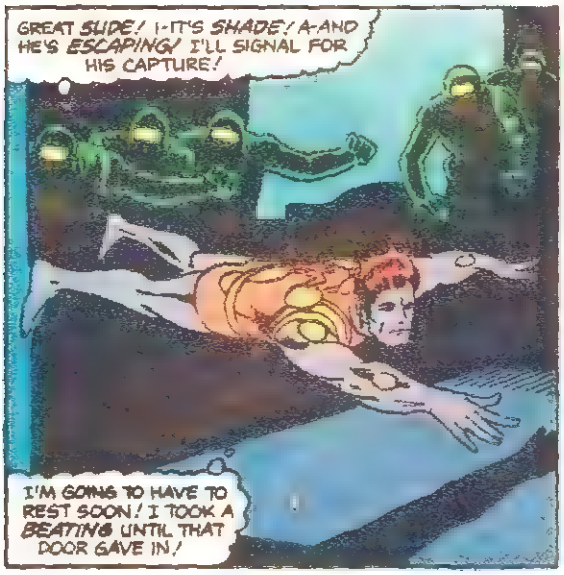

I GOT THEM BOTH BEFORE THEY HAD A CHANCE TO GIVE THE ALARM!

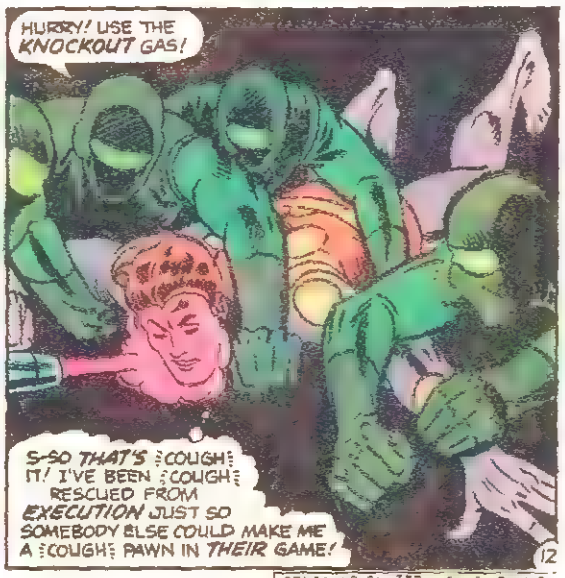












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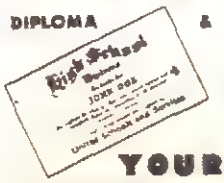

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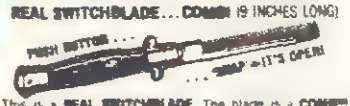

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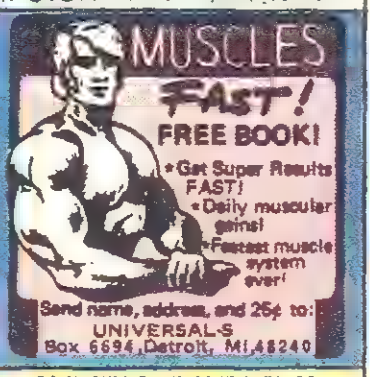

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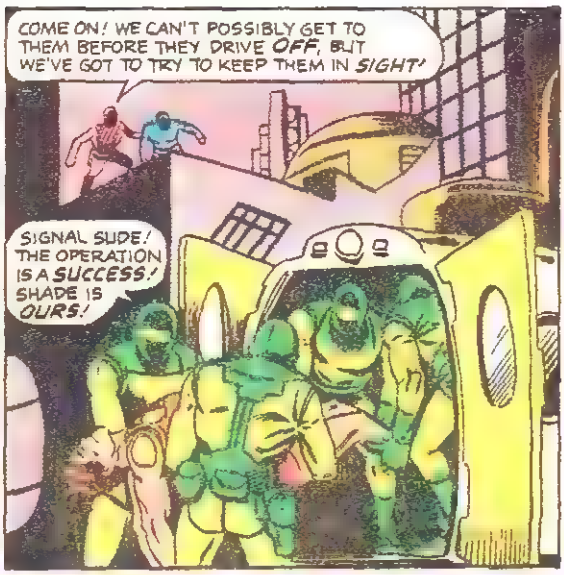
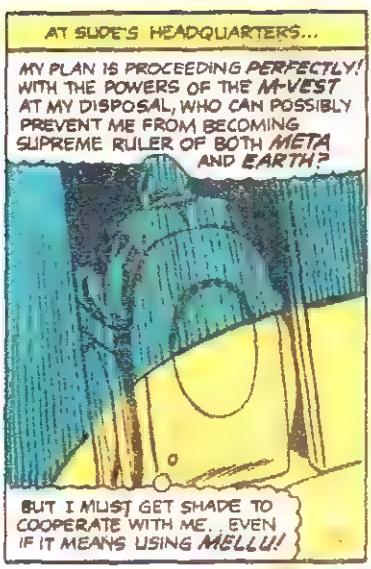
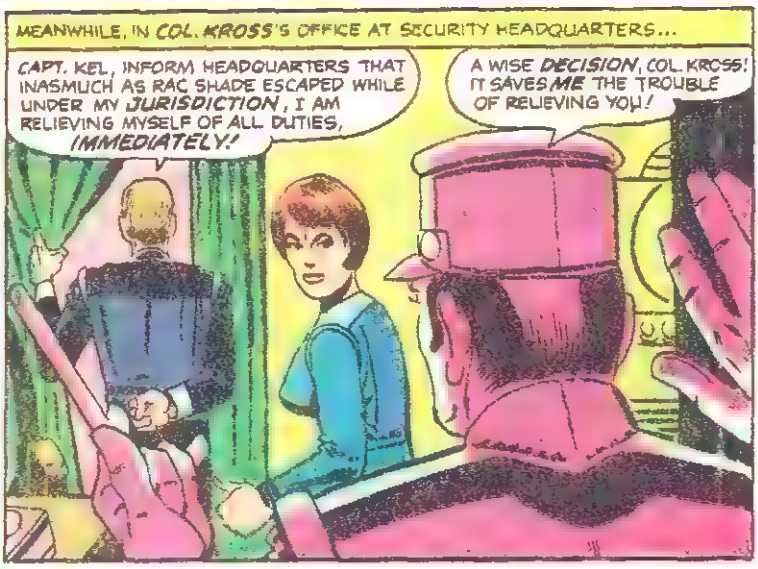
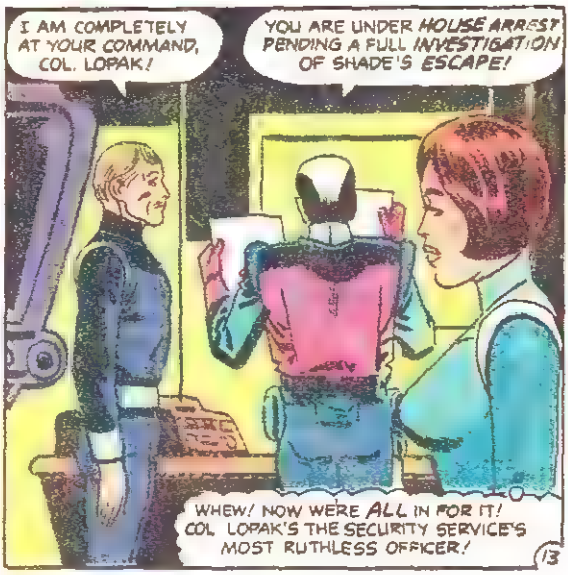
WHEEEE
GREAT META! IT'S THE PRISON ALARM! NOW WELL NEVER GET IN! THERE'LL BE SECURITY PATROLMEN CRAWLING ALL OVER THE PLACE!
MELLU! LOOK! THOSE MEN OVER THERE! THEY'VE GOT SHADE!

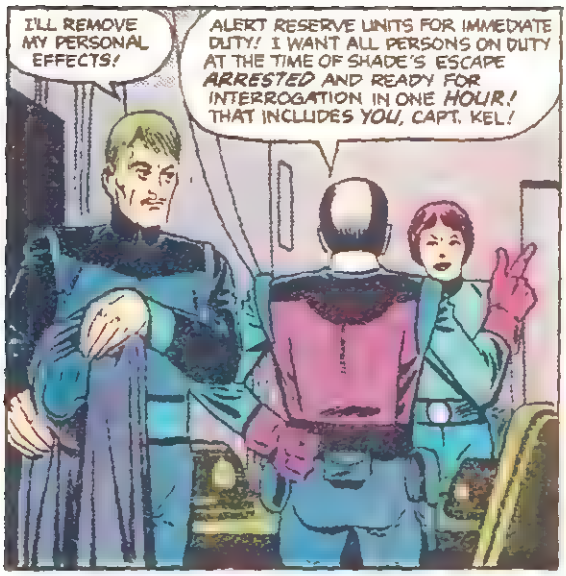

COME ON! WE CAN'T POSSIBLY GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY DRIVE OFF, BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT!
SIGNAL SUDE! THE OPERATION IS A SUCCESS! SHADE IS OURS!


AT SUDE'S HEADQUARTERS...
MY PLAN IS PROCEEDING PERFECTLY! WITH THE POWERS OF THE M-VEST AT MY DISPOSAL, WHO CAN POSSIBLY PREVENT ME FROM BECOMING SUPREME RULER OF BOTH META AND EARTH?
BUT I MUST GET SHADE TO COOPERATE WITH ME... EVEN IF IT MEANS USING MELLU!

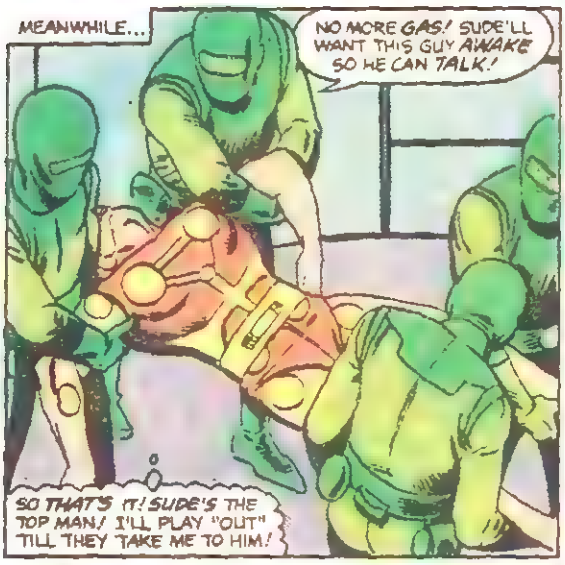

MEANWHILE, IN COL. KROSS'S OFFICE AT SECURITY HEADQUARTERS...
CAPT. KEL, INFORM HEADQUARTERS THAT INASMUCH AS RAC SHADE ESCAPED WHILE UNDER MY JURISDICTION, I AM RELIEVING MYSELF OF ALL DUTIES, IMMEDIATELY!
A WISE DECISION, COL. KROSS! IT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF RELIEVING YOU!

I AM COL. LOPAK! GENERAL HEADQUARTERS HAS GIVEN ME FULL AUTHORITY TO HUNT SHADE DOWN--ALONG WITH ANY TRAITORS WHO MAY HAVE AIDED IN HIS ESCAPE!

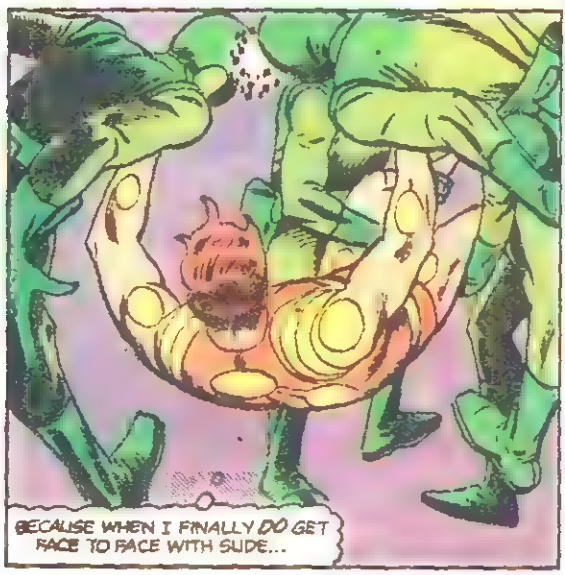

I AM COMPLETELY AT YOUR COMMAND, COL. LOPAK!
YOU ARE UNDER HOUSE ARREST PENDING A FULL INVESTIGATION OF SHADE'S ESCAPE!
WHEW! NOW WERE ALL IN FOR IT! COL. LOPAK'S THE SECURITY SERVICE'S MOST RUTHLESS OFFICER!

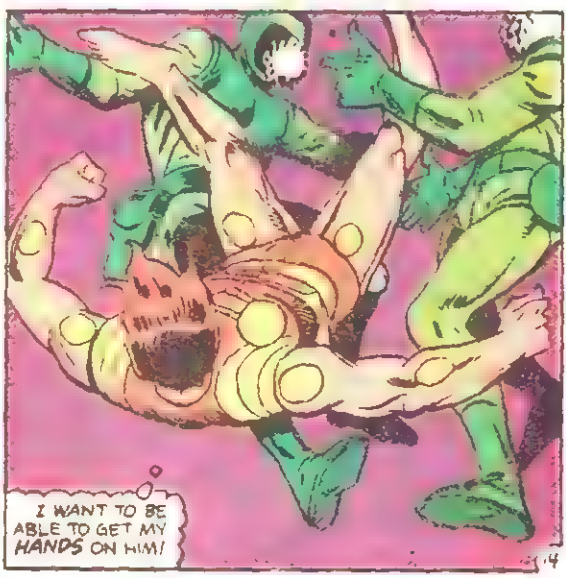

I'LL REMOVE MY PERSONAL EFFECTS!
ALERT RESERVE UNITS FOR IMMEDIATE DUTY! I WANT ALL PERSONS ON DUTY AT THE TIME OF SHADE'S ESCAPE ARRESTED AND READY FOR INTERROGATION IN ONE HOUR! THAT INCLUDES YOU, CAPT. KEL!

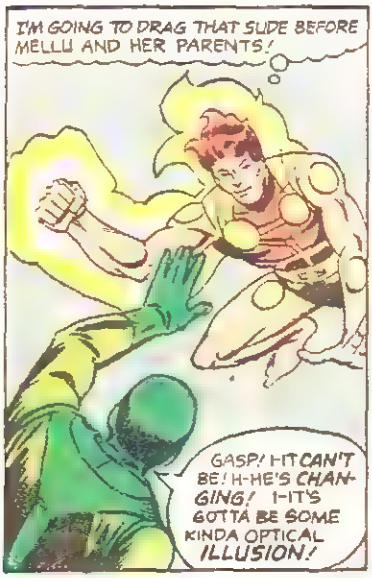
THERE'S NO WAY SHADE COULD'VE STAGED HIS ESCAPE WITHOUT INSIDE HELP! I INTEND TO ROUT THE TRAITORS OUT OF HIDING--AND EXTERMINATE THEM!

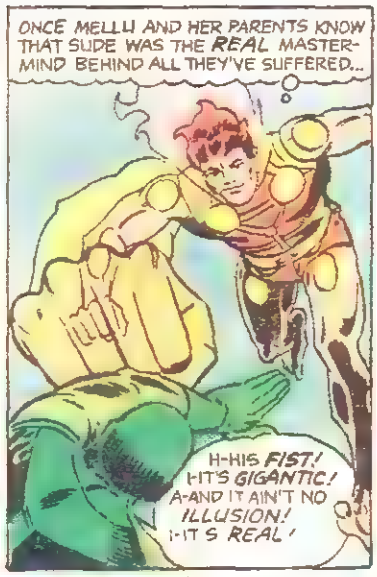

MEANWHILE...
NO MORE GAS! SUDE'LL WANT THIS GUY AWAKE SO HE CAN TALK!
SO THAT'S IT! SUDE'S THE TOP MAN! I'LL PLAY "OUT" TILL THEY TAKE ME TO HIM!

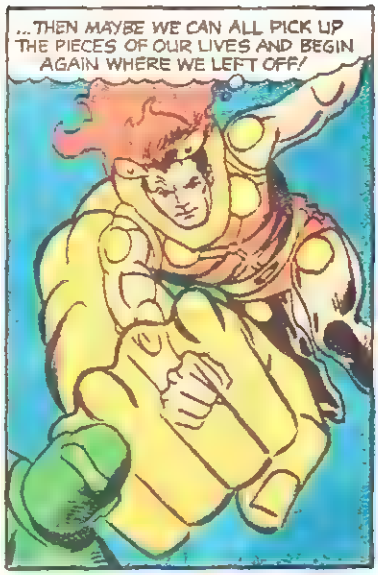
NO! I SAY WE GAS HIM AGAIN! IF THIS JOKER WAS TO GET AWAY FROM US, SUDE D HAVE OUR HIDES!
UH-OH! I CAN'T LET THEM KNOCK ME OUT AGAIN!

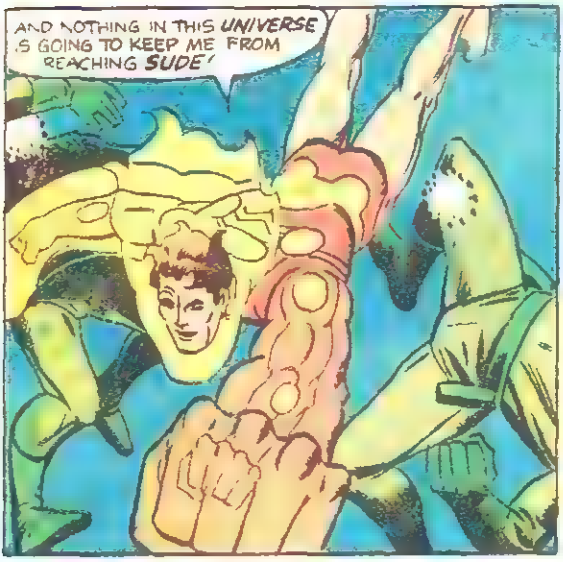

BECAUSE WHEN I FINALLY DO GET FACE TO FACE WITH SUDE...


I WANT TO BE ABLE TO GET MY HANDS ON HIM!


I'M GOING TO DRAG THAT SUDE BEFORE MELLU AND HER PARENTS!
GASP! I-IT CAN'T BE! H-HE'S CHANGING! I-IT'S GOTTA BE SOME KINDA OPTICAL ILLUSION!

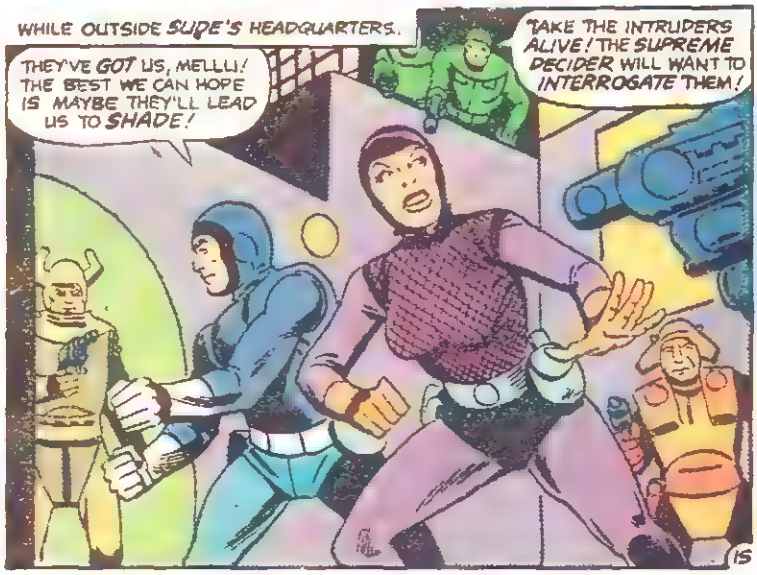

ONCE MELLU AND HER PARENTS KNOW THAT SUDE WAS THE REAL MASTERMIND BEHIND ALL THEY'VE SUFFERED...
H-HIS FIST! I-IT'S GIGANTIC! A-AND IT AIN'T NO ILLUSION! I-IT'S REAL!

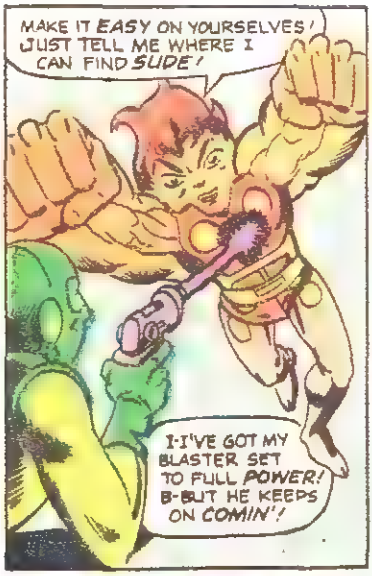

...THEN MAYBE WE CAN ALL PICK UP THE PIECES OF OUR LIVES AND BEGIN AGAIN WHERE WE LEFT OFF!

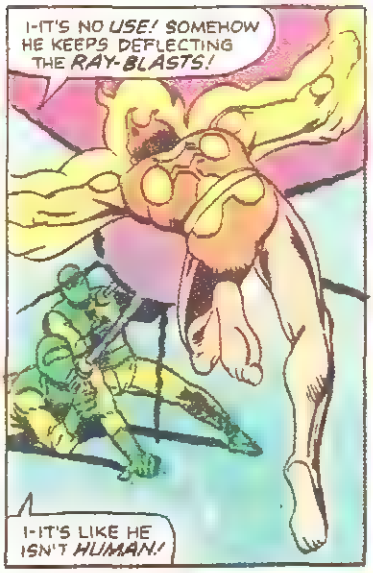

AND NOTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE IS GOING TO KEEP ME FROM REACHING SUDE!

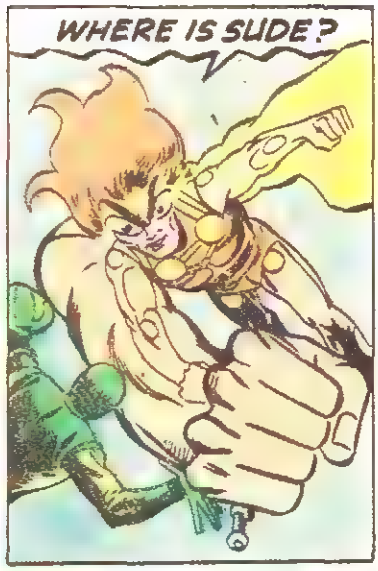
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? NOTHING!

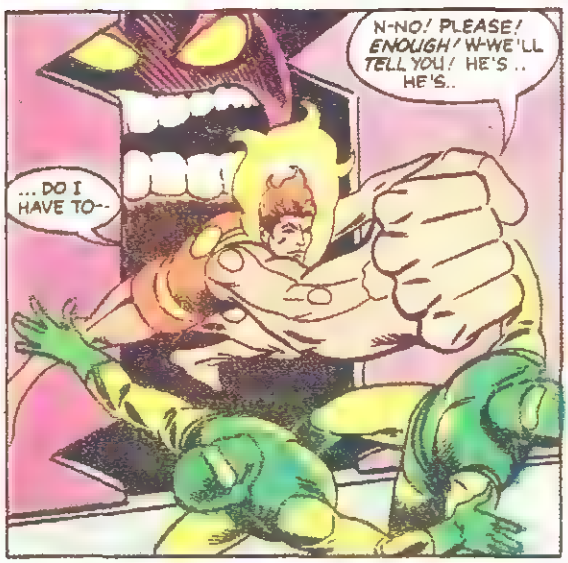
TH-THE GUY'S A MANIAC!
WE CAN'T HOLD HIM! GO FOR YOUR BLASTERS!

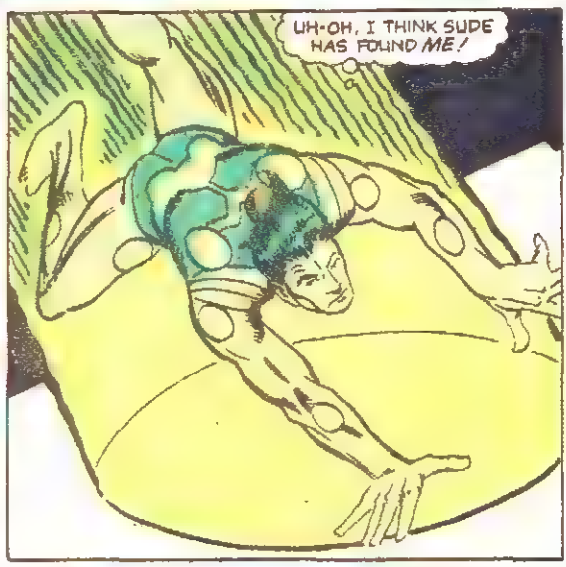

WHILE OUTSIDE SUDE'S HEADQUARTERS...
THEY'VE GOT US, MELLU! THE BEST WE CAN HOPE IS MAYBE THEY'LL LEAD US TO SHADE!
TAKE THE INTRUDERS ALIVE! THE SUPREME DECIDER WILL WANT TO INTERROGATE THEM!

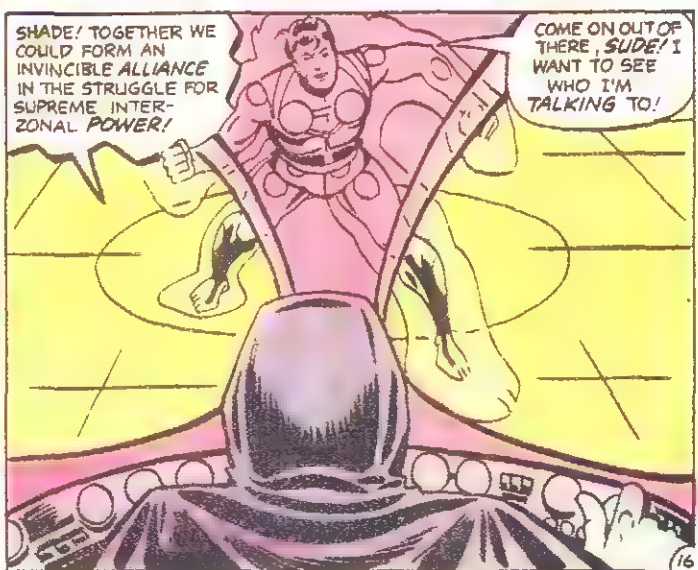












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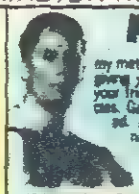

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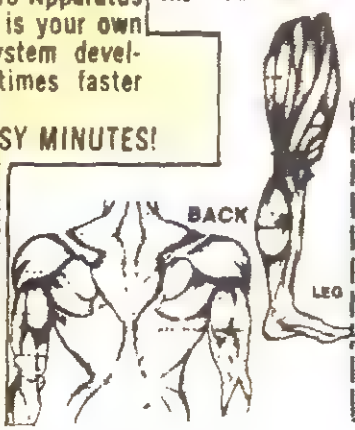

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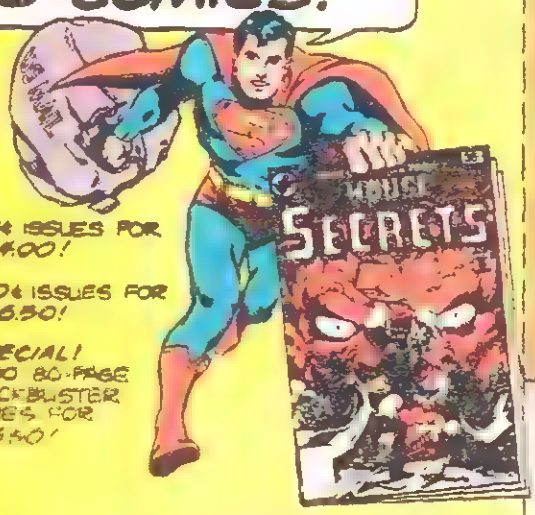

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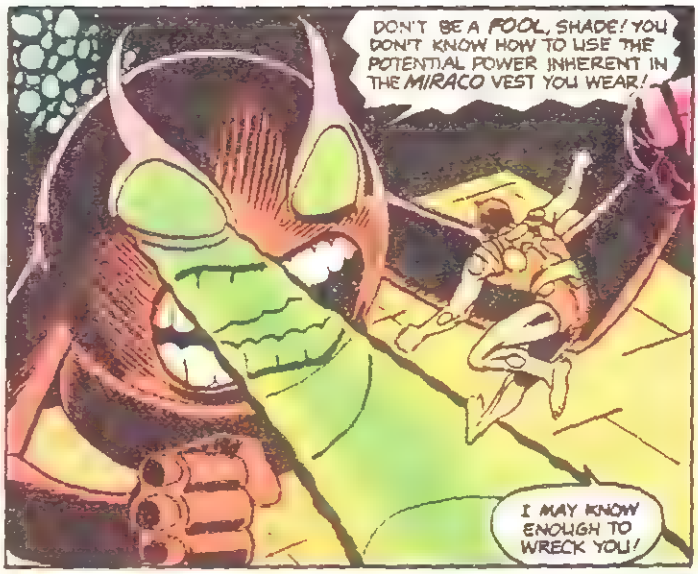

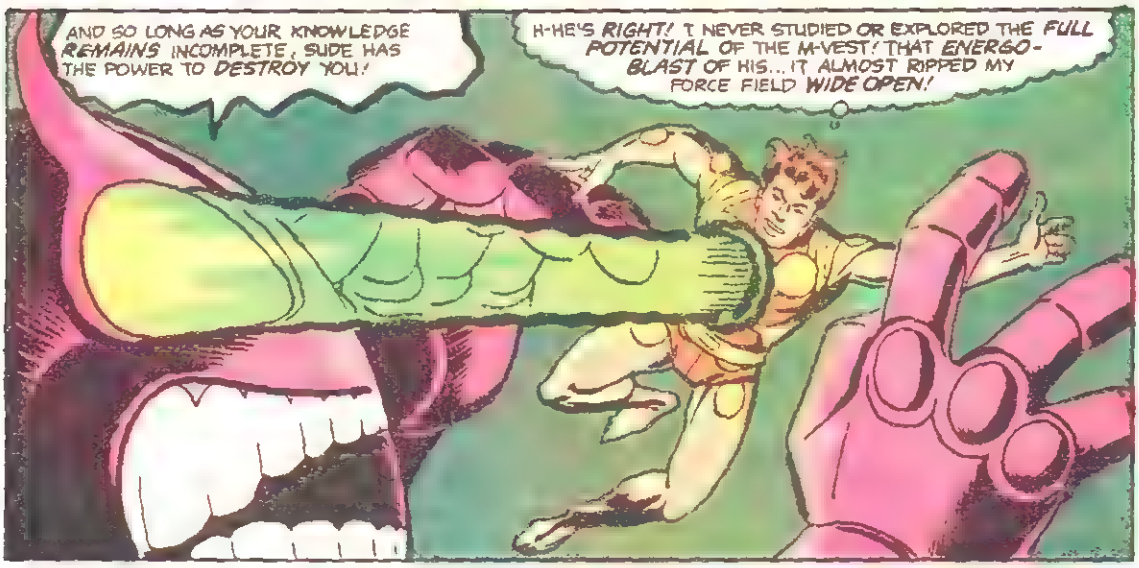

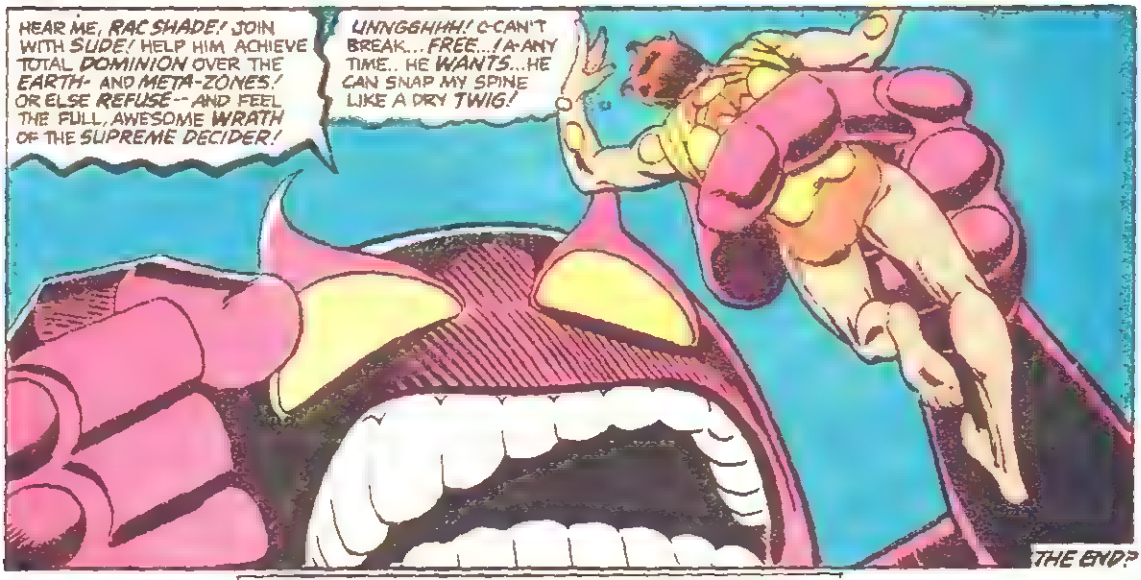

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY

Dear Jack,

In **SHADE—THE CHANGING MAN** #2, Steve Ditko not only extended upon the thrilling storyline he established in the premiere, but gave us an exciting and bizarre new villainess as well. **Form** is perhaps the most unsettling character to appear in the book so far, because the strange powers she possesses are so mysterious, and also because the **Metans** dropped everything else (including their search for the fugitive **Shade**) in order to deal with her. It wouldn't taken quite a threat for them to do that!

Of course, **Form** wasn't the only good thing about **SHADE** #2. There was also the confrontations between **Shade** and **Kempo**, the man who made him an outlaw in the eyes of the **Metans** to begin with, and the vengeful **Meilu**, who is so obssessed with her mission as an N-agent that she was barely able to save herself from destruction at the hand (vapors?) of **Form**. This latter situation served as the issue's cliffhanger, and it was a tense one indeed!

Another big plus for **SHADE** is the fine artwork that Steve Ditko has turned in for these first two issues. It has his Charlton/Atlas efforts beaten by a country mile. I especially enjoy the sequesces in the other-worldly **Zero-Zone**, where the physical laws we know do not apply. There, it's all strange colors and emptiness and **Meta-Zone** criminals floating about in a desparate attempt to avoid the **Area of Madness** and somehow escape to the **Earth-Zone**. And it's all a delight! **Shade's** transformations are also a continous source of entertainment; they make the book one of the most visually unusual comics to be found anywhere. My only suggestion is that a clearer explanation of the powers of the **M-Vest** be given in the future.

I notice that one of the reservations folks who reviewed **SHADE** #1 in advance of its publication had was that the story was a bit copy-laden. I, for one, was grateful that scripter Michael Fleisher took the time (and the space) to let us know what was happening and why. That sort of thing is quite neccessary in a first issue, and those books that don't feature it run the risk of losing readers through a lack of understanding. I hope everyone notices that this second outing contained much less verbage, and that what **was** there added depth to the plot and background to the main characters.

Till next time, then, keep up the good work.

Ed Via
1648 Dean Rd.
Roanoak, Va. 24018

It seems as if our initial editorial worry of *SHADE* being a bit too wordy was unfounded. Even our younger readers have commented on the clarity of *SHADE'S* adventures.

More and more information on the *M-VEST* is being given each issue—along with a healthy portion of subplots and storylines. By now, you should be well-versed in *META-ZONE* lore. But leave it to Mike and Steve to come up with something to surprise you next time out!
JCH

Dear DC People,

SHADE is pure Ditko at his best. But then, I am looking at it from the artwork point of view. The rubber-like figures are certainly Ditko, but it seemed to lack that extra bit of energy story-wise; but this is only my first issue. There is still room for improvement.

I am glad to see Steve Ditko's new style (that I first saw in his underground publication **"WHA—?"**) in a regularly published comic. In fact, **SHADE** is very similar to **"WHA—?"** all in all. **SHADE** could become very big in the science fiction circles, and this is usually something that makes classics.

One thing that I must point out is that it is good seeing a hero in a **suit!** It makes a pleasant change from the rippling and bulging triceps of the most mundane super-heroes. I hope **the Changing Man** does not "change" his attire.

I try not to be long-winded. Many American comic readers write everything—emptying their heads on paper. So I will promptly sign off.

If this letter sees print, I hope you will print my full address as I would be delighted to hear from any Steve Ditko fans in America. I guarantee a reply. Thanks for listening.

John Springs
191 Adel Lane
Adel, Leeds 16, Yorkshire, England

We've many requests to put *RAC SHADE* in a "costume." We feel the *M-VEST* is costume enough for any hero (and after all, is *SHADE REALLY* a "super-hero" comic?). Your opinions express far better reasons for *SHADE'S* attire to remain "unchanged," and since your address had been published, you can now answer anyone who disagrees with you directly!—JCH

* * * * *

Dear Amigo,

This issue reminded me much of Ditko's work on the old Doc Strange tales he did in Marvel's Strange Tales. Very good plots. Refreshing action. I am a little sorry this comic was only a stepping-stone in between story blocks. All issue #2 amounted to was getting Ditko into position for #3.

But it was still good. The bloodlust Ditko gives his heroes toward their enemies is encouraging in this day of kissing those who would destroy us. A healthy piece of paranoia.

The green woman was semi-sexy. I'd welcome her more if she could develop more human characteristics.

This **Melili** (sic)(**SHADE'S** girlfriend) is very good. I'd like to see more of her. Waiting for issue #3. Keep out of jail, amigo.

David Edward Taeusch
P.O. Box 1327
Midland, MI 48640

Thanks, Dave. You've proven the only comic adage, "unusual comics receive unusual mail."

* * * * *

Not that we're soliciting *UNUSUAL* mail, but we'd really like to get *SOME* mail from *YOU*. Send it off to: *MYSTERIOUS MESSAGES TO THE META-ZONE*, DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019!

EXTRA DAILY PLANET EXTRA

VOLUME 77 ISSUE 43 | WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 1977 | BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR | ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

HINDENBURG DESTROYED!

MYSTERY BEHIND FAMOUS AIR DISASTER SOLVED!

(New Jersey)—Most everyone has heard about how the famous zeppelin, the Hindenburg, burst into flames and burned over New Jersey in 1937. Now Steve Englehart and *Ric Estrada dare to reveal the story*, of what happened during that fateful flight and why in a full-length adventure appearing in *WEIRD WAR #60*.

In this spell-binding issue, you'll learn about the mysterious woman passenger who is tracked by the British secret agent and the startling truth about her strange mission. "Night Flight" is a special story that you won't want to miss when *WEIRD WAR #60* goes on sale the week of November 7th!

PARASITE ATTACKS SUPERMAN

(Metropolis)—There's something strange going on at an off-shore lighthouse, a new *Solomon Grundy* is rampaging through the streets of Metropolis, Clark Kent seems to have lost interest in Lois Lane and is taking up with Lana Lang instead, and now it's time for the "Absolute *Power-Play of the Parasite!*"

The curtain goes up on all these events in *SUPERMAN #320* when it goes on sale the week of November 6th. Marty Pasko, Curt Swan and Francisco Chiaramonte have collaborated on a super-shocker that should be put on your must-buy list!

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6th

BATMAN #296—The Scarecrow's on the loose again in "Sinister Straws of the Strawman" by David V. Reed and Sal Amendola!

THE FLASH #258—Green Lantern's old foe *Black Hand* launches an attack on the Scarlet Speedster in "The Day Flash Ran His Last Mile" by Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin.

HOUSE OF SECRETS #150—Gerry Conway and Gerry Talaoc join forces for "A God By Any Other Name", a book-lengther starring House-host *Abel* and the *Phantom Stranger*!

METAL MEN #56—The metal band battle the *Inheritor* and try to gain world citizenship in "The Inheritor Kills" by Gerry Conway and Joe Staton.

MR. MIRACLE #22—The war with *Darkseid* continues in "Midnight of the Gods" by John Harkness, Marshall Rogers and Vince Colletta!

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

BRAVE & BOLD SPECIAL (Batman, Deadman and *Sgt. Rock)/JONAH HEX #9/JUSTICE LEAGUE #151/ KAMANDI #55/NEW GODS #16/ SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #10/SHADE #5*

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: In what issue was *SUPERBOY* changed to *SUPERBOY AND THE LEGION?*—Mike Townsend. *A:* The official title change came with the change to 60¢ size, *#232*! But the *Legion* was receiving cover coverage as far back as *#197*.

Q: In a recent Answer Man column, you said *Kid Eternity* was on Earth-S. This is not true. He was a Quality character and therefore should have been on Earth-X.—Philip Botwinick. *A:* Maybe, but the *Kid appeared in a SHAZAM* story, which places him on Earth-S now!

Q: Will *Green Lantern* and *The Atom* ever marry their fiancees?—Lygra Fouchey. *A:* Wedding bells will soon be ringing for the Tiny Titan and Jean Loring. Keep reading JUSTICE LEAGUE for the big day! As for *GL*, maybe . . .

Q. When and why did *Batman* change his chest emblem from the plain bat to the bat in the yellow circle?—*Tom Kelly. A: The change* took place in 1964, when Julie Schwartz took over as editor of *BATMAN* and *DETECTIVE COMICS*. The reason given was that the Caped Crusader wanted a "new look"!

Q: Will *Batwoman* ever appear in *BATMAN FAMILY* again?—Matt Kurtz. *A:* She's scheduled for an appearance in *BF #17* and also in *FREEDOM FIGHTERS #14*!

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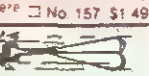

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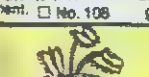

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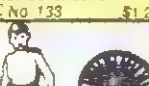

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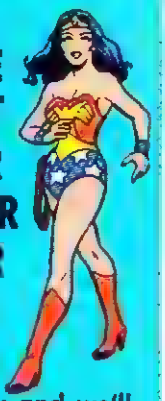

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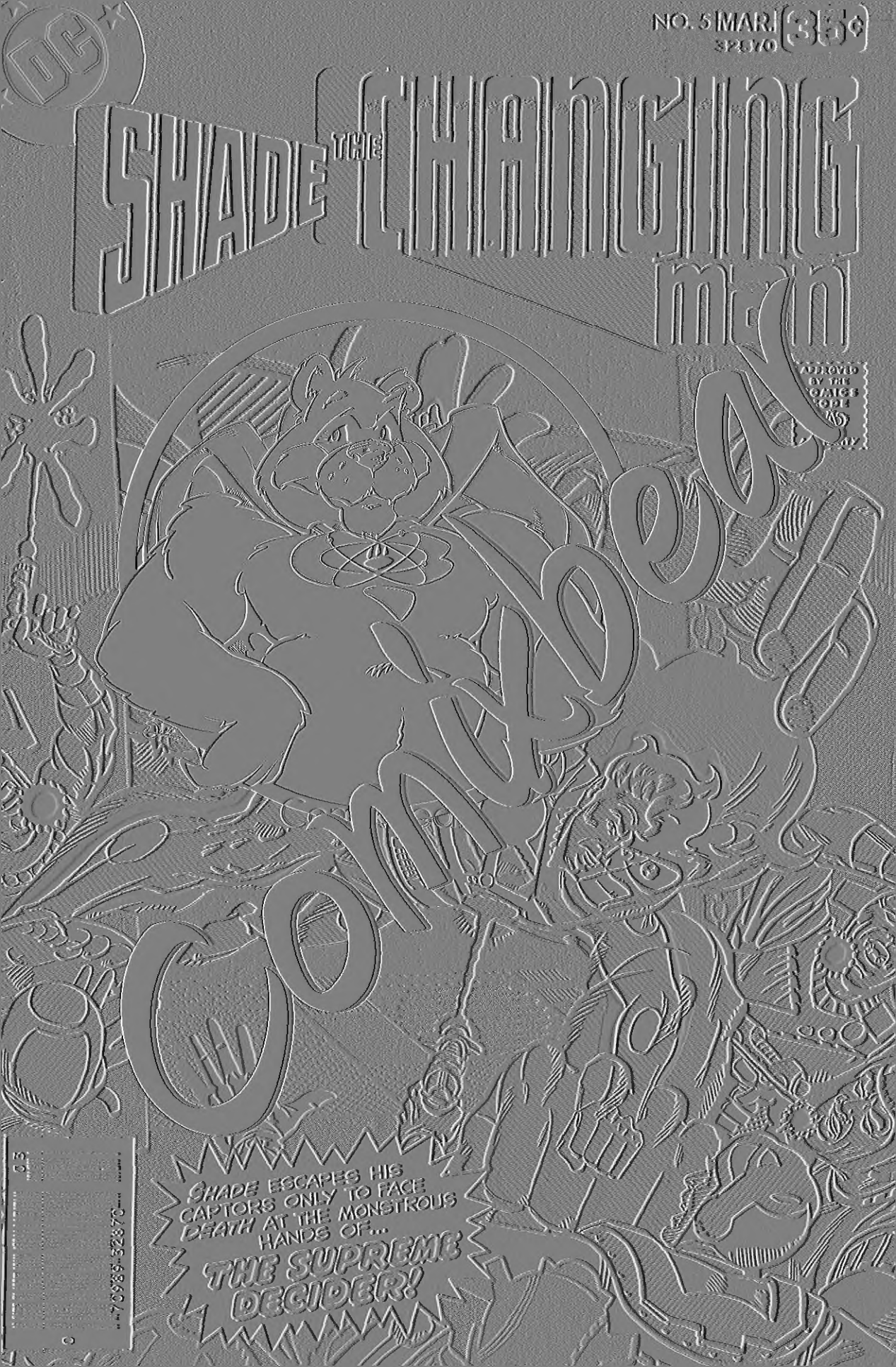
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Shade The Changing Man #5

February/March 1978 DC Comics

"The Captive Of Changing Captors"

concept/art: Steve Ditko dialogue: Michael Fleisher color: Carl Gafford
letters: Bill Morse editing: Jack C. Harris